

“ ‘ No, David ; no boy ever trod the quarter-deck with such principles as you have and such habits as you exhibit. You'll have to change your whole course of life if you ever become a man.”

“ My father left me and went on deck. I was stunned by the rebuke and overwhelmed with shame.

“ A poor, miserable, drunken sailor before the mast, kicked and cuffed about the world, and to die in some fever hospital. That's my fate, is it ? I'll change my life, and change it at once. I will never utter another oath, I will never drink another drop of intoxicating liquors, I will never gamble ; and, as God is my witness, I have kept these three vows to this hour.”

66. Tell the story of Farragut's reformation.

67. How may bad habits be changed ?

By honestly, earnestly trying to change them.

A Battle with Habits of Appetite.

A gentleman formerly a tremendous whisky-drinker, tobacco-chewer and smoker, but for several years past has been a reformed man, wrote to a friend in the city of New York as follows : “ I have seen the time that my desire for tobacco was vastly stronger than it ever was for food. Once I was on a lee shore, the wind blew, the sea was tremendous. The last time I saw the rocky shore it was three miles to the leeward. It was late in the afternoon, I felt certain we should be on the rocks before morning if the wind continued. I felt in my pockets for some tobacco, but could find none. I examined every part of the vessel where I thought it possible to find any ; I inquired of the crew, but there was none on board. At that time I would have given fifty dollars for one quid. The gale ceased, we soon found a harbour, and the first thing I inquired for was tobacco. I chewed twenty-one years and smoked about eighteen. For a long time before I quit the use of tobacco I believed it was injurious to me, but I felt it was almost impossible to leave off. Eventually I was awakened and felt that such practices were sinful. I then thought I would try to leave them off. When I quit smoking I felt comparatively that I had lost all my friends. I could not eat or sleep as usual, I felt restless, and for some weeks thought it uncertain whether I should be able to conquer a habit which was so strong. But at last it was