

them in drinking; but he declined. Then they all urged him together; but still he refused. Finally, they got angry and threatened to beat him unless he would drink with them.

"Shipmates," says he, "I'm in your power. What can one fellow do against six? But before you begin to do as you have threatened, hear what I have to say." They agreed, and Jack went on to give this explanation of his conduct:—"My father," said he, "was a drunkard. I remember, when I was a child, how he used to beat and abuse my mother, who was always affectionate and kind to us. One day in winter, my mother sent me away on some business, which kept me from home till late at night. On my return, as I came near the house, I saw something lying on the snow, which looked like the figure of a man. I came nearer, and looked carefully at it in the light of the moon; and you can imagine, perhaps, how I felt when I found it to be the frozen body of my dead father. I was overcome with horror. I hastened home and told the dreadful tidings to my poor, heart-broken mother. Our kind neighbours came in. They carried my dead father home. Preparations were made for the funeral. On the day of the funeral my mother took me and the other children into the room where the corpse was lying, to look upon our father's face for the last time. As we stood there, weeping round that open coffin, she made us each solemnly promise that, as long as we lived, we never would learn to drink intoxicating liquor. My mother is dead and gone to heaven. I have always looked on the promise I then made as a sacred thing. I have sailed round the world, but in storm or in calm, in winter or summer, I have never yet broken it. Now boys, would you now have me drink, and break that promise which I made to my dear mother?"

"No, no, no!" was uttered by every voice, and the