

been effected with so much individual distress, and so great loss of life, though far from having produced the prosperity and happiness anticipated by their most enlightened patriots, have nevertheless caused their ports to be thrown open for the admission of the flags of all nations. This has afforded opportunities to strangers for visiting them, which have been abundantly improved; and the numerous and elaborate accounts of them which have been given to the world, within a few years, by literary men, who possessed the requisite leisure and opportunity for the purpose, seemed to obviate the necessity of my attempting to enlarge on those subjects. The same reason forbade the attempt at more than cursory and passing descriptions of countries, cities, customs, and manners in other parts of the globe, visited by me for objects exclusively of a commercial character.

Equally, if not even more remarkable than the changes above mentioned, are those observable at the Sandwich Islands, since my first visit there in the year 1799. Then the inhabitants were but little elevated from the barbarous state in which they were found by Captain Cook; now they are comparatively a civilised people, sensible of the value of instruction, and eager to obtain it; cultivating their fields, and, by an extended and increasing foreign trade, affording a most remarkable instance of the ameliorating and humanising effects of commerce.

In these days of philanthropy, when there are so many zealous advocates and active promoters of the great and truly benevolent cause of Temperance, it is proper and becoming in every well-wisher to the advancement of this cause, to aid it in every way in his power. With such impressions, and with the favourable opportunity now presented, I should consider it reprehensible to withhold from the public a statement of facts relating to myself personally, and which no other consideration than the hope of doing good would induce me to make, although they may be viewed by many as not the least extraordinary of the facts which have been narrated.

I am not, nor have I ever been a member of a Temperance Society; but I was a practical temperance man long before such societies were dreamed of. At the period when I began my nautical career, it was a universally-received maxim, that drinking grog and chewing tobacco were two essential and indispensable requisites for making a good seaman. So omnipotent is custom, and so powerful is satire, that although the absurdity of such a maxim must be apparent to every one, I have nevertheless seen many young men repeatedly made sick before overcoming the disgust, and some of them afterwards became miserable drunkards. As alcohol and tobacco were in no degree less offensive to me than I had evidence of their being to my associates, it appeared to me, that to submit to the ridicule rather than to the sickness was

selecting the least of the evils, and I acted accordingly.

Those who may honour me with a perusal of my narrative, will perceive that I have navigated to all parts of the world, from the sixtieth degree of south latitude, to the sixtieth degree north; and sometimes in vessels whose diminutive size and small number of men caused exposure to wet and cold, greatly surpassing what is usually experienced in ships of ordinary capacity; that I have been exposed to the influence of the most unhealthy places; at Batavia, where I have seen whole crews prostrate with the fever, and death making havoc among them; at San Blas, where the natives can stay only a portion of the year; at the Havana, within whose walls I have resided five years consecutively; that I have suffered captivity, robbery, imprisonment, ruin, and the racking anxiety consequent thereon. And yet, through the whole, and to the present sixty-eighth year of my age, I have never taken a drop of spirituous liquor of any kind; never a glass of wine, of porter, ale, or beer, or any beverage stronger than tea and coffee; and, moreover, I have never used tobacco in any way whatever; and this, not only without injury, but, on the contrary, to the preservation of my health. Headache is known to me by name only; and excepting those fevers, which were produced by great anxiety and excitement, my life has been free from sickness.

The following narrative will enable the reader to form a comparison between a seaman's profession and his own; and, possibly, after perusing it, he will be less disturbed by the annoyances which peculiarly beset him. He will perceive, that the master of a merchant-ship, in whom are united the duties of navigator and factor, is subjected to great care and responsibility, even on ordinary and well-defined voyages. These are greatly augmented when the enterprise is enveloped in darkness, from the unknown political state of the countries whither he is destined; from the contingencies which may be presented to him; and from the necessity of great circumspection, decision, and promptitude, in the choice of them. If he is timid and afraid to enter a port where there is uncertainty of a friendly reception, it may cause the ruin of his voyage. If, on the contrary, he is bold, and enters such port, confiding in the protection of existing treaties and the laws of nations, he may also become the victim of arbitrary power, confided to unworthy and ignorant individuals. If success attend his enterprise, when returning home with ample compensation for his labour, he runs the risk of having it all snatched from him by some hungry satellite of that great high-sea robber, termed "His" or "Her Majesty." Thus, in addition to the ordinary perils of hurricane and storms, of rocks and shoals, he has to incur the greater ones of the cupidity and villany of man.

Of the ordinary labour and fatigue attendant

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