

Jacob, we must be at the wharf early to-morrow morning, so keep alive,' he went into his cabin to indulge in his potations, leaving me in possession of the deck, and also of my supper, which I never ate below, the little cabin being so unpleasantly close. Indeed, I took all my meals *al fresco*, and unless the nights were intensely cold, slept on deck, in the capacious dog-kennel abaft, which had once been tenanted by the large mastiff, but he had been dead some years, was thrown overboard, and, in all probability, had been converted into Epping sausages, at 1s. per pound. Some time after his decease, I had taken possession of his apartment and had performed his duty. I had finished my supper, which I washed down with a considerable portion of Thames water, for I always drank more when above the bridges, having an idea that it tasted more pure and fresh. I had walked forward and looked at the cable to see if all was right, and then having nothing more to do, I laid down on the deck, and indulged in the profound speculations of a body of eleven years old. I was watching the stars above me, which twinkled faintly, and appeared to me ever and anon to be extinguished and then re-lighted. I was wondering what they could be made of, and how they came there, when of a sudden I was interrupted in my reveries by a loud shriek, and perceived a strong smell of something burning. The shrieks were renewed again and again, and I had hardly time to get upon my legs when my father burst up from the cabin, rushed over the side of the lighter, and disappeared under the water. I caught a glimpse of his features as he passed me, and observed fright and intoxication blended together. I ran to the side where he had disappeared, but could see nothing but a few eddying circles as the tide rushed quickly past. For a few seconds I remained staggered and stupefied at his sudden disappearance and evident death, but I was recalled to recollection by the smoke which encompassed me, and the shrieks of my mother, which were now fainter and fainter, and I hastened to her assistance.

A strong empyreumatic, thick smoke ascended from the hatchway of the cabin, and, as it had now fallen calm, it mounted straight up the air in a dense column. I attempted to go in, but so soon as I encountered the smoke, I found that it was impossible; it would have suffocated me in half a minute. I did what most children would have done in such a situation of excitement and distress—I sat down and cried bitterly. In about ten minutes I removed my hands, with which I had covered up my face, and looked at the cabin hatch. The smoke had disappeared, and all was silent. I went to the hatchway, and although the smell was still overpowering, I found that I could bear it. I descended the little ladder of three steps, and called 'Mother,' but there was no answer. The lamp fixed against the after bulk-head, with a glass before it, was still alight, and I could see plainly to every corner of the cabin. Nothing was burning—not even the curtains to my mother's bed appeared to be singed. I was astonished—breathless with fear, with a trembling voice, I again called out 'Mother.' I remained more than a minute panting for breath, and then ventured to draw back the curtains of the bed—my mother was not there! but there appeared to be a black mass in the centre of the bed. I put my hand fearfully upon it—it was a sort of unctuous, pitchy cinder. I screamed with horror, my little senses reeled—I staggered from the cabin and fell down on the deck in a state amounting to almost insanity: it was followed by a sort of stupor, which lasted for many hours.

As the reader may be in some doubt as to the occasion of my mother's death, I must inform him that she perished in that very peculiar and dreadful manner which does sometimes, although rarely, occur to those who indulge in an immoderate use of spirituous liquors. Cases of this kind do indeed present themselves but once in a century, but the

occurrence of them is but too well authenticated. She perished from what is termed *spontaneous combustion*, an inflammation of the gases generated from the spirits absorbed into the system. It is to be presumed that the flames issuing from my mother's body completely frightened out of his senses my father, who had been drinking freely; and thus did I lose both my parents, one by fire and the other by water, at one and the same time."

Poor Jacob, it may be remembered, afterwards had the nickname of "Cinderella" applied to him at school; and he was chiefly moved to give Barnaby Bracegirdle the celebrated drubbing, from the latter having called him the "son of a cinder!"

### The Canadian League.

On Tuesday, the 24th May, the Delegates of this Association assembled at St. Catherines, C. W., for the transaction of business. Mr. C. A. Van Norman, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association was called to the Chair,—a place, says the *Watchman*, which, throughout the session, he filled with great ability, and to the entire satisfaction of the Convention. It may be proper to state that John Wilson, Esq., of London, C. W., President of the Association, expressed his deep regret that his duties as Queen's Counsel, in connection with the Assizes, rendered his attendance at this meeting impracticable.

The representation, as might have been expected, was highly respectable, involving an array of talent rarely equalled in the meetings of any similar organization in the preliminary stages of its existence. The meeting having been organized in due form, proceeded to the transaction of business.

The first, second and third Articles of the Constitution were amended in open meeting, and the remainder referred to a Select Committee. That Committee reported at the evening session; and with several amendments the Committee's report was adopted. The Convention remained in session until midnight.

On Wednesday the Convention assembled at 9 o'clock, a. m., and continued in session until 1 o'clock, p. m.; when, having completed the various arrangements deemed essential to the successful working of the Association,—the meeting adjourned.

The Amended Constitution of the League is annexed, as also the *Manifesto* to the people of Canada. The Executive Committee has its head-quarters in Toronto; and is composed of men who will labour with vigour and perseverance to carry out the grand object of the Canadian *Prohibitory Liquor Law League*. In inserting the Amended Constitution, it may be necessary to say, it has our entire confidence.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE LEAGUE.

ART. I.—The name of this Association shall be "The Canadian Prohibitory Liquor Law League;" and its object shall be to procure, by the use of all constitutional means, the enactment and permanency of a Law in Canada to prohibit the Manufacture and Sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

ART. II.—All persons favorable to its objects may become members of the League by signing the Constitution, and paying an Annual Fee of 1s. 3d. each in advance.

All Ministers of the Gospel favorable to the objects of the League may become Members thereof by signing the Constitution.

Any person paying to the General Secretary of the League the sum of \$5 or upwards may become a Life Member of the League, and entitled to a Certificate of Membership which shall admit such person to the General Meetings of any Branch in the Province.

ART. III.—Branches of the League may be organized in any city, town, township or village in the Province, and