

THE LOSS OF THE S. S. "STATE OF FLORIDA."

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Alas ! 'tis true ; the dismal tidings ring
Within our ear the gurgling throes of souls
O'erwhelmed by ocean, smiling treacherous :
The heart-wrung shriek of hope o'ercome ascends
To smite the star-lit heavens that seem to laugh
Ironical at fate, whose callous sweep
Enforces life to join the life beyond.
At sunset, when the golden rays shot forth
From twilight's diadem, all then was peace :
No rage was in Atlantic's breath ; the sea,
Itself, was mirror to the traveller's hope
Of haven-rest assured ; and round such hope
Perchance in one fond heart,* there warmly gleamed
Anticipation's cheer of friendships won
And oft renewed in Scotia's dear-loved realm.
No cloud of ill presaged the midnight woe :
With heedless, tensioned pride, the great ship throbbed
To kiss the coy horizon's crowning line,
Disdainful of the jealous swell which deemed
The embrace its own ; and men and women slept
Confiding in the wanton strength which dares
The crested storm and flouts the staying calm.
Fate holds, howe'er, no counsel with the skill
Which man can boast : its unrelenting grasp
• Reveals no law which he can tame his own :
The pride of all his toil is but the sphere
Whose soapy film breaks at a moment's breath,
To pass within the yeast of chaos, God controlled.

GRAMMAR.—Young pupils do not learn half as much good grammar from their textbooks as they do from their teacher, if she is accurate and choice in her language. A pupil may decline the pronoun I, a hundred times, and repeat the rules for the objective case as often, and he will say "Susan gave the flowers to Mary and I," if his teacher

uses such constructions. On the other hand, if his teacher says, "She gave it to Mary and me," he will say the same, though he never looked into a grammar. *Corollary 1*—A child would never use bad grammar, if it never heard bad grammar. *Corollary 2*—Children are, in language, much as are their models.—*Educationist*.

* The writer's friend, Mr. Walter King, of Toronto, was among those who were lost in the shipwreck.