

took, after leaving Howard street, increased my fear, and when I entered the dark avenue which led up to the dreary looking mass of buildings, the cold chills crept over my whole body. When I got as far as the gate, I remembered every frightful tale I had ever heard, and was so sick with fear, that I had almost to hold myself up. I stood with my hand on the gate for a long time, irresolute whether to enter, go back, or remain where I was. At last I mustered up courage to call my father, who I thought might be up stairs. I gave one loud cry of "Father!" and paused, with a wild beating at my heart. My voice sounded strange and awful to my ears, as it rang out in that lonely and deserted spot. There was no answer, but I thought I heard a motion in the trees over my head.

After waiting for some minutes until I could feel reassured, I again called in a louder voice, "FATHER!" The bird of night replied to me in a shrill, unearthly scream, which so startled me that I almost sunk to the ground. But I was reassured in a moment, and the consciousness that there was any thing living near me restored a portion of my fast flitting courage. I now waited for full half an hour, at the gate, and as my father did not come, I began to think that perhaps he had come home early, sick, and was now in our room suffering, or perchance dying. The moment this thought glanced across my mind, I summoned up all the resolution I had, and opening the gate, glided in and up the stairs with a quick step, yet fearing every moment that my eyes would meet some terrible apparition. When I got into our room, and had felt all round it in the dark, and was fully conscious that my father was not there, I sat down upon the floor, perfectly overcome with fear. To be there alone, at the dead hour of the night, a mere boy, in that deserted place, was a reflection that paralyzed me. What I suffered then and there, I can never describe. From a state of stupid fear I was aroused by the thought of my father. Where was he?—how was he? He must be sick or dead. Filled with this idea, I crept softly down the stairs as though fearful of disturbing the spirits of the place, and reaching the yard, opened the gate and ran with feet winged by fear until I got into the main road. Just there I met my father, who came staggering along too drunk to know little more than that I was his son. What a load was removed from my heart!

#### SCURVY ON BOARD TEMPERANCE SHIPS.

It is a somewhat singular circumstance, that simultaneously with the appearance of the new regulations of the Admiralty respecting the reduction of the spirit rations of the men in the British navy to one-half their former amount, a certain doctor should attempt to startle the world from its propriety by announcing that scurvy had become prevalent among the crews of temperance ships, followed by an exhortation to the owners and charterers of vessels to allow a portion of spirits daily. We can easily imagine that this announcement would be trumpeted forth by every distiller in the land, and be regarded as the greatest god-send which has fallen upon the path of that much-injured class ever since the fiery liquids were first proscribed by the American Moderation Society. We should not be surprised if some of them, in the excess of their rejoicing, were to set about building Ragged Schools—a way of spending their money which must commend itself to all who have just appreciations of "the fitness of things." We are not in the habit of looking after the market price of Jamaica rum, Hollands gin, and Scotch and Irish whisky; hence we cannot say whether there has been any advance in the price of these articles since the news arrived from Aden, where this learned doctor happens to reside.

It is not at all probable that some uncharitable persons will think, and perhaps say, that this "scurvy" affair is an artful dodge on the part of the interested to upset the new

regulations of the Admiralty, and that they have managed somehow to get hold of this doctor, and induced him to write the letter in question. We do not for a moment entertain any such suspicions ourselves, nor are we in the least concerned that the wonderful discovery of this son of Esculapius will lead to any other result than pity for his ignorance, and a smile at his temerity in publishing that ignorance to the wide world. We believe there is scarcely any disease which afflicts either sailors or landspeople in the prevention or cure of which a more unsuitable article could be selected than ardent spirits. We are not going to doubt the statement that scurvy has prevailed among the crews of vessels coal-laden from England; but that some other cause is chargeable with producing the disease than the absence of the daily ration of spirits, we have no misgivings whatever. But our readers shall read the letter for themselves, as it appeared in the daily *Times* of April 2nd:—

"SCURVY ON BOARD TEMPERANCE VESSELS."

Sir,—I am desirous of giving publicity to the fact, that during the past 12 months I have had occasion to treat more cases amongst the crews of English ships visiting this port, than during any of the preceding five years I have conducted the medical duties of the station.

Scurvy is almost exclusively confined to vessels coal-laden from England; and, as you are well aware, several ships have almost been disabled by it from both officers and men suffering; the worst cases seem invariably in such vessels as do not allow a ration of spirits.

I would therefore most earnestly suggest to charterers and owners of vessels the propriety of allowing a portion of spirits daily, and that the quality of provisions supplied to the ship be strictly attended to; also that cleanliness of person and clothes be strictly enforced.

I have the honor to be, etc.

J. A. VAUGHAN.

To Captain S. B. Haines, Political Agent, Aden.

Naval Department, Aden, Feb. 26.

Sir,—I take the liberty of enclosing the copy of a letter from Dr. Vaughan, who has medical charge of the Naval Hospital at Aden. Since the letter was written two more ships under temperance rules have entered the port with their crews suffering from scurvy.

I have the honor to be, etc.

S. B. HAINES, Captain, Indian Navy, and Political Agent.

Captain G. A. Halsted, R. N., Secretary, Lloyds."

It will be more satisfactory to some of our readers, probably, if, instead of attempting to controvert the anti-temperance points of this letter, we allow the *Medical Times* to do so—a paper not chargeable with over-partiality to the teetotal question. We were especially gratified to see the subject taken up so promptly by this organ of the medical profession, as the following appeared in its pages on April the 6th:—

"SCURVY ON BOARD TEMPERANCE VESSELS."

"There can be no doubt that this is a most important matter. The serious outbreak of sea-scurvy, which so thoroughly disabled the ships under Lord Anson, and has since been comparatively little heard of, except in vessels proceeding on very long voyages, and badly found in all respects, especially in what are termed 'medical comforts,' is a matter worthy of the utmost attention, and would warrant the authorities of the Admiralty in appointing a Medical Commission to investigate its causes, and the means to remedy them. It is evident, from the disease being principally confined to coal-laden vessels, that it springs from some local cause. We are loath to recognise, as that cause, the sailing of the vessels on temperance principles, and we do not