

efforts to attract attention and obtain aid had not ceased. Signals of distress were constantly made, but all these endeavours were futile. Although several ships were at anchor only a few hundred yards off, not one seems to have perceived the disaster, the watch probably being asleep at the time. Had such not been the case, it is thought that all lives might have been saved. What a terrible consequence of neglect of duty!

During all this time the vessel had been rapidly filling with water, and the boxes and cargo on the lower deck were now afloat and could be heard underneath thumping against the upper deck on which the people were collected. A small steam tug, attracted by the signals of distress, at length came up; but, before it could render any assistance to the unfortunate passengers, while its red lights cast a horrible glare on the crowd of upturned faces, pitiful in their terror and despair, the stern of the doomed "Northfleet" slowly rose in the air, and then with a swift, rushing motion, the noble vessel went down by the head, leaving nearly four hundred people struggling helplessly for life in the water. Of all those who two days before had left the dock at London, with buoyant hopes for the future, and apparently with every prospect of a successful voyage, only about seventy were saved.

Although it must ever be with feelings of mingled awe and horror that we reflect upon so sad a calamity as the loss of the "Northfleet," still we cannot but look back with heartfelt admiration upon the brave conduct of that noble captain, who met death, like a hero, at his post. And we cannot express in too strong terms our contempt of those cowardly Spaniards who were the sole cause of the disaster, and yet refused either to acknowledge their culpability, or to aid in remedying to some extent the evil they had done.

Chains.

Ever since the banishment of our first parents from the Garden of Eden, the world has been fettered by chains.

Look at the prisoner in his grated cell, with what mingled feelings of pity and disgust we behold the chains with which he is bound. For while we feel compassion for his misery, we cannot but loathe the crimes that stain his heart and hands.

Thousands of young men are dragged down into the deep pit of degradation by the heavy fetters of drunkenness. While in the hands of this tyrant, many a word has been spoken, and