

THE TWO SAILORS.

A mother on the green hills of Vermont was holding by the right hand a son, sixteen years old, mad with love of the sea. And as she stood by the garden-gate one morning, she said:

"Edward, they tell me—for I never saw the ocean—that the great temptation of a seaman's life is drink. Promise me, before you quit your mother's hand, that you will never drink liquor."

"And," he said, for he told the story, "I gave the promise, and I went the globe over—to Calcutta and the Mediterranean, San Francisco and the Cape of Good Hope, the North and South Poles. I saw them all in forty years, and I never saw a glass filled with sparkling liquor, that my mother's form at the gate did not rise up before my eyes; and to-day I am innocent of the taste of liquor."

Was not that sweet evidence of the power of a single word? Yet that is not half. "For," still continued he, "yesterday there came into my counting-room a man, forty years old."

"Do you know me?"

"No."

"Well," said he, "I was brought, drunk, into your presence on ship-board; you were a passenger; they kicked me aside; you took me to your berth, and kept me there till I had slept off my intoxication. You then asked me if I had a mother. I said I had never heard a word from her lips. You told me of yours at the garden-gate; and to-day I am master of one of the finest ships in New York harbor, and came to ask you to come and see me."

The mother's words on the green hills of Vermont! God be thanked for the mighty power of a single word.—*N. Y. Observer.*

JESUS IS ALIVE.

A few years ago, an intelligent working man asked a striking question of a near relative, who had begun to think seriously, and who was speaking to him on the all-important subject of salvation. "Is Jesus dead, or is He alive?" was the question he asked: "I used to think," he said, "he was just a man, and that he was dead, and that there was no more of him." We have been told that this working man is now living under the power of the assurance that Jesus *is* alive. Yes, *Jesus is alive*. This is just the assurance that is needed by all, and very specially needed, in the present day.

To be assured that Jesus, who was crucified, is not dead but is alive, would turn unbelievers into Christians. To realize it would turn nominal into real Christians; for O! how much it implies. That He is alive in His perfect humanity, and in His supreme divinity; in the merits of his death and righteousness on earth, and in the unchangeableness of his love and power to save—that He is alive, and very near; to know this, and receive Him thus into the heart, is to have vice and sin cast out; to have begun fellowship with God our Saviour; to be fitted for usefulness here, and for glory hereafter.