

character of tee-totalers. I must add for the credit of Captain Hoskins, and the *Western* that, though tee-totalers, we had no reason to complain of any want of attention, being quite as well treated in every respect, as those who spent large sums in wines and liquors.

It is a very common thing to complain of the tedium of a sea-voyage, but there is an excellent remedy for this complaint which I respectfully recommend to all whose health will permit them to adopt it. It is as follows: Ask the Captain if he has any objection to your going daily to the fore-castle to converse with the men upon "righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come." If he assents, and few will refuse, go forward and ask permission of the men to visit them, (visits forced upon them will do little good,) and, doubtless, they will receive you kindly, though they may show some backwardness at first to enter upon serious subjects. Persevere daily at the same hour; (I have found the best time to be immediately after the men had taken tea) and whether it blow high or low be at your post, if you would retain Jack's respect. There, in the dark, wet, greasy fore-castle seated on a sailor's chest reading a pocket bible by a train oil lamp, and almost suffocated with tobacco smoke and other offensive exhalations, whilst the waves are dashing against the bows and, perhaps, breaking over the hatch, you will find an effectual remedy for tedium; and when you part with your fore-castle friends at the end of the voyage, you will in all probability see some affecting instances of genuine nautical gratitude. I may add that I have known an exceedingly bad impression left on sailors by a clergyman who, in the course of a voyage, never once spoke to them except on Sundays, when, if the weather was fine, he delivered a formal discourse, at the Captain's request.

Sailors' Home.—On landing in New York one of my first objects was to visit its far-famed Sailors' Home, which I found to be neither more nor less than an elegant and extensive hotel conducted upon the best principles throughout, and in all its arrangements peculiarly adapted to sailors. It is managed by a scaman, Capt. GELSON, who has a deep and enthusiastic interest in the welfare, temporal and eternal, of his brethren of the deep. The table is excellent and mighty, without any detriment to themselves, be frequented by the boarders of the Astor House—although, of course, I do not mean to say that they would be served in the same costly style. The public rooms are spacious, and one of them is used as a library and museum; there maps, charts, and books upon various branches of education requisite for seamen abound, as well as those of a religious and moral tendency. There a common sailor may, while waiting for a ship, fit himself to become mate or master; and there all are invited to present whatever curiosities they may have collected which are arranged methodically and labelled with the donor's names. The bed-rooms are airy and clean, and all the conveniences for washing clothes, &c., are of the most perfect description. Attached to the premises, and as an additional attraction to the Home, is a ball-alley to which some have objected. It is, however, unobjectionably conducted; an old sailor, who is a decidedly pious man, superintends it, and all oaths or gambling are strictly prohibited. I need not add that intoxicating drinks are entirely excluded from the Home; and yet I think I never saw a more joyous and happy band of sailors than those who thronged its hall at the time of my visit. Care is taken that every inmate shall possess a Bible, and seamen of all countries, whether they board there or not, may be supplied on making application at the bar or rather office. I found that an

idea had been propagated by interested persons that boarders at the Home were obliged to purchase clothing at a store connected with it, but on inquiry I learned that this was not the case. The store in question is not connected with the establishment, though in the same building, but it is conducted by a man of integrity and piety, and sailors are told that if they need clothing they will not be cheated there, either in the quality or price of the articles they purchase, which is too often the case elsewhere. They are, however, at perfect liberty to buy wherever they choose, and no difference is made in the treatment they receive at the Home. I may add that the rates of boarding were as low as those of the miserable dirty obscene places so frequently called sailor's boarding houses, where the poor friendless mariner is so often enticed with fair and flattering words, drugged with poisonous potions, robbed of every thing he possesses, and then sold to any kind of ship or for any kind of voyage that the landlord, who draws his wages in advance, chooses. On this subject I give the following extract from a document which appeared in the *New York Journal of Commerce*:

"The first object is to gain possession of the sailor's person.—With that view a constant look-out is kept up for vessels on their first arrival—and very frequently long before they touch the wharf they are boarded by these landlords or their confederates, actually in some cases with bottles of rum concealed about their persons. The worn-out mariner overjoyed at the sight of land, falls an easy prey into the net thus spread for him, and then the work of spoilation begins. Is the sailor to be clothed? The landlord goes with him to certain clothing stores, and for doing so, receives, by previous bargain, *ten or twelve and a-half per cent.* on the amount of clothes thus furnished.

This, of course is so much taken from the sailor's pocket.

Does the sailor stand in need of groceries? Does he want tobacco? Does he desire a chest for clothes? A per-centage in each case becomes the landlord's, and in each case the sailor suffers.

All the sailor's earnings are with reckless prodigality committed to the landlord's keeping, who by excessive overcharges so regulates the accounts between them, as very soon to exhaust the fund, and leave the sailor, as he says, in debt with him. He tells him that it is time for him to ship again.

Is the sailor on the eve of sailing? The landlord, on a plea of debt which it is thus always in his power to allege, sometimes imprisons him until he gives an order on his owner for his wages when they are due.

The sailor, friendless and alone, protests that no debt is owing, yet rather than remain in jail, will often yield compliance.—Should he hold out and refuse, the landlord, after judgment and execution, when the sailor sails again, trustees the owner for the wages. In this connection attention is called to the startling fact that during the past year, out of three hundred and forty-six persons lodged in Boston jail, one hundred and thirty-seven were sailors, and two-thirds of them for alleged demands of not exceeding 20 dollars. Two landlords have been known to conspire together. One ships the sailor, and after he is on board of the vessel, the other by writ arrests him. An order upon the owner is given, which the owner, if ignorant of the fraud, accepts, rather than that his vessel should be delayed, and the two landlords share the proceeds between them.

Strange as it may seem, there are men in this city whose living and trade is to speculate, as it is called, on these orders, by taking advantage of the necessities of seamen after they have been despoiled.

The same system is supposed to be practised in every port in the United States. And it is computed, by a gentleman of correct information, that not less than 10,000 persons in the United States live by fleecing the poor sailor."

It is not to be supposed that the class of ruffians described above, would suffer their prey to escape without a struggle, and accordingly they incited drunken sailors to abuse the persons who went on board newly arrived vessels to invite the crews to the "Home." Two or three riots occurred and a great procession was