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CHARLES RIDGWAY AND HIS AMIENUENSIS.

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

(A MODERN VERSION)

A REMARKABLE TEMPERANCE STORY
OF SHANGHAI

BY

CHARLES RIDGWAY

AUTHOR OF "MARRIED AND DID'NT KNOW IT." "SNATCHED
FROM THE JEWS OF DEATH." "A TERRIBLE
RETRIBUTION," Etc., Etc.



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INTRODUCTION.

Upon my arrival in Shanghai in the Spring of 1875 I was most terribly shocked to find it a perfect pesthouse of drunkenness, prostitution, debauchery and crime in their worst forms. Shanghai was then the seat of the Christian church in Asia and the rendezvous of nine-tenths of Christian missionaries of all denominations, their aim and object being to propagare Christian doctrines, sobriety, and goodwill amongst the Asiatics. While it is not my purpose to discourage the self-sacrificing efforts of the members of the Christian church, yet I would beg of them before subscribing to foreign missions, to stop and look around them and see the necessity for such efforts in the land they are living in, so that the heathens will no longer have occasion to criticise the conduct of so many Christians, or professing Christians, who visit the East, when witnessing the terrible effects of Strong Drink. Many times I have been asked by Chinese—"Are these men

Christians?" to which question I was compelled to answer in the affirmative, and they invariably retorted—"Well, I do not want to be a Christian."

Hail Glorious Temperance! Friend of Humanity
Sent to unrevet sad slavery's chain;
The cup of our fathers to banish Forever!
With all the dire evils that crowd in its train!

Thou hast gladdened the heart that was lonely
and cheerless,
And chased the sad tear from the mother's
pale cheek;
Thou hast gifted with health the infirm and the
sickly,
And strengthened the hand that was palsied
and weak.

Thou hast brightened the eye that was clouded
with sorrow,
And softened the voice once uplifted in wrath;
Thou hast seated the child on the knee of its father,
Whom before was repelled by a frown or an
oath.

Yet still brighter visions appear in the distance,
When truth shall have echoed thy fame
through the earth ;
When the home of the drunkard, the tavern, the
prison
Shall nowhere be found in the land of our birth.

Then hail ! Lovely Temperance ! Gem of humanity :
Around thee we'll rally with banners unfurled.
Blessings be thine ! both for time and eternity.
Then reign in thy beauty all over the world !

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT.

CHAPTER I

“Shiver me timbers! So help me Bob! that’s fine and no mistake!” “Yes, boys, that’s slick, and don’t you forgit it” “I say, Chips! Lamps! Tommy Gaynor! You can bet your bottom dollar its real smart!” “Come in, lads!” And the doors opened, when in poured a great number of both American and English blue-jackets, and as they streamed past me, each saluted me with: “A happy New Year to you Brother Ridgway, and good luck to you!” “You’re a brick and no mistake about it? Such were but a few of the exclamations and salutes intermingled with noisy mirth that greeted me in the afternoon of New Year’s eve 1879, in my new establishment, the “Sailors’ Rest,” situated on the corner of Ming-hong Road and Broadway, Hongkew, or as indicated on canvass forty feet long, stretching the whole length of the front of the house beneath the windows of the upper storey, on which were in-

scribed in large blue letters eighteen inches in length, the ancient legend: "The House that Jack Built."

In order that my readers may thoroughly understand the foregoing scene, it will be necessary for me to digress.

A few weeks previous I returned from Peking, on completion of an engagement in the construction of the new British legation there. I was suffering severely from an attack of melancholia produced by the recent deaths of my wife and child, and although being in possession of about two thousand dollars, yet I felt miserable and undecided in my plans for the future. Whilst in this state of uncertainty, a Brother Good Templar, Mr. Ewan, whom I visited at his shop, observed, on my asking his advice as to what I should do—"You have always been an ardent advocate of temperance, Brother Ridgway. Now here is a chance to put your theories into practice" and taking down a pamphlet from the shelf, handed it to me. It referred to the recent establishment of a "Sailors' Rest" in Devonport by a Miss Weston, giving a glowing account of how it was appreciated and

patronized extensively by sea-faring men and others, and had, so far, proved a grand success. He advised me to do likewise in Shanghai where such an establishment was sadly needed.

I at once grasped the idea and promised to devote my time and money to establishing a similar undertaking.

Brother Ewan was about to give up his grocery business and vacate the premises on account of his services being urgently required at the Presbyterian Mission Press, so in view of this fact I decided not only to rent his present premises but also the house next door, which happened to be vacant at the time.

With this end in view, several of the Brothers proffered their services and by employing a number of Chinese carpenters masons, and painters, the building was ready by Christmas, and by New Year's eve we had erected a stage with a beautiful frontage, several scenes, side-wings, and other paraphernalia, suitable for performing dramas and conducting other entertainments. There was room to seat about two hundred persons.

During the past week both myself and several

of the Brothers of our Order had often paid visits on board of warships, not only for the purpose of inducing the men to join us, but to invite them to take part in the opening ceremony of my new "Sailors' Rest."

The captain of each ship, at our solicitation, had granted us permission to make use of as much bunting, ropes and other necessary articles as we required for the decoration of both inside and outside of my place. They also granted special leave for as many men as we needed to assist us in the work.

CHAPTER II

Thus it was, by three o'clock on New Year's eve of 1879, my first practical efforts in the cause of Temperance had been brought to a reality. Inside, was hung with flags of all nations, interlaced with flowers, ribbons and evergreens, which gave a very pleasing and enchanting effect to the place. Outside was more charming than the inside as spanning the street to the full length of the house had been erected three magnificent triumphal arches, from which were suspended a great profu-

sion of flags, ribbons, flowers and Japanese and Chinese lanterns, whilst the front of the house was draped with bunting and lanterns, in a manner which sailors alone know how to do. Altogether, the whole effect was pronounced to be a masterpiece of art, well worthy of the Cause for which it was intended to promote and at the same time a credit to Jack,

Such shouting, talking and laughing that proceeded from over a hundred "blue jackets" was never before heard in Shanghai. They represented the navies of both Great Britain and America, and the men gazed with rapture and delight at the new institution established especially for their accommodation and entertainment when ashore. I am sure it would have cured anyone, however affected with melancholia or drink, to have witnessed this sight, and at the hearty New Year greetings they all wished me. The crowd of assembled men began to increase and I had qualms as to whether my place, large as it was, would be sufficiently large to comfortably accommodate all these fellows, But Jack is not the man to be deterred by trifles, for I am sure there is not

another body of men in the whole world who is more able and willing to accommodate himself to circumstances than Jack. When one and all had entered and were comfortably seated inside my establishment, I had the doors closed to keep out the severe frosty weather then prevailing. Although I had a large circular American stove placed in the center of the saloon, which gave out great warmth, yet it did not much benefit those some distance away, particularly those in the corners, with its glow ; so to augment this, I supplied the men with coffee. When all were comfortable and jolly, I stood in their midst and commanding silence, I said, pointing to the big clock : “ Now boys, it is nearly five o’clock ”—when I was interrupted by a chorus of voices saying, “ At what time does the tea fight begin ? ” “ At six-thirty sharp ” I responded, “ and I want everyone of you to join in it. But, boys, what I was about to say is that excepting a dozen or so of you, I want everyone to vacate your comfortable seats and places, and either go upstairs and inspect the upper regions or else take a run round town.” I am sorry to have to turn you away

even temporarily as it is so bitterly cold, but I want to have room to prepare the grand tea fight." "Oh, nevermind! Brother Ridgway," they all cried, and after selecting some twenty to assist me, the rest dispersed. "Those who choose to meet Jack Frost," I continued, "I would advise to prepare themselves as he is biting very keenly," and on leaving the house, the sailors raced like so many school-boys let out on holiday, whilst those who remained went to work in real earnest to construct or place in order as many seats or chairs as space and material would allow.

And now, dear reader, these noble specimens of God's creation will in this narrative represent the "rats that ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built," but unlike the unfortunate rodent family as related in the time honoured fairy tale, they will I trust fare better, and escape the terrible "Cat-as-trophe."

Whilst preparations were being made, several Sisters of the Order entered in order to assist and wait at table in response to my request a few days previously, and with their kind permission we shall designate them as the "cats" that worried

the rats that ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built," but unlike the members of the wicked feline family as related in the legend, instead of scurrying, intimidating and torturing the poor "rats," these ladies graciously and generously consented to make glad their hearts, by attending to the inner man of their victims, which they did in a very short space of time, by laying out white cloths, cups and saucers, etc., and down the center row of each table placing sandwiches, cakes, fruits and all good things interspersed with exotic flowers and plants.

CHAPTER III

At a quarter to six every inch of space was utilized with long seats, chairs and tables. Even the stage did not escape, as three short tables with seats surrounding them were placed thereon. As I have previously mentioned, the saloon had been most artistically decorated with flags of all nations, pennants, ribbons, flowers, evergreens interspersed with beautiful pictures representing country scenes in the dear homeland, and landscapes, also photographs of famous men and women

of the day, giving it the appearance of that far famed and magnificent Alladin's Palace.

By six the "rats" began to make their appearance in groups, their teeth chattering and their countenances betraying the ill-effects of old Jack Frost, in spite of their assumed air of indifference, for, as they entered, each one took a bee-line towards the stove, at which they stood whilst vigorously rubbing their hands until real smiles overspread their faces.

By half past six over two hundred happy and smiling faces could be seen as they sat around the richly laden tables, laughing and joking to their hearts' content as they partook of the good things placed before them, and which appeared to give much enjoyment; as it is not often such a pleasure occurs to them. Around them floated beautiful and sweet sounds, issuing from the grand piano played by one of the Sisters of the Order.

At seven o'clock the tables were again removed and the seats arranged into rows. Then the Reverend W. Muirhead, Dean of the Cathedral, took his stand on the stage, and for nearly half an hour gave a most eloquent and encouraging ad-

dress, entreating the men to always patronize all similar institutions as the present one, instead of wasting their money, energy and health in the thousands of mantraps set and baited for them at every port at which they called, concluding by an earnest prayer and blessing to the promoters and upon all those present ; after which I ascended the stage and with all earnestness recited that beautiful poem entitled "Hail Glorious Temperance!", to be found in the opening of this narrative, and which won for me loud applause.

The curtain then rose and songs followed recitations, and glees followed duets, in rapid succession, when at nine o'clock the curtain again arose and a beautiful drama in five acts entitled "Five Pounds Reward" was performed in a most creditable manner, considering that it had only been composed and rehearsed a few days previously by the bluejackets ; and on the fall of the curtain a little before midnight every moveable article hanging from the ceiling and walls vibrated with the deafening applause which greeted the performance, and did not cease until every performer again and again presented himself before

the delighted and appreciative audience. The curtain had scarcely descended when the Rev. Mr. Muirhead again offered a prayer of thanks, at the conclusion of which I was completely hemmed in on all sides by those eager to shake my hand and congratulate me and thank me for the delightful evening spent in the opening of the first Sailors' Rest in the Far East.

CHAPTER IV.

When the crowd had somewhat dispersed I was besieged on all sides by applicants for beds who were all anxious to sleep in my new quarters as the night was bitterly cold, in fact, one of the coldest known in Shanghai for many years, as several times during the past week the thermometer registered ten degrees below zero. Not possessing sufficient accommodation, it was short notice for such a large demand and I was perplexed as how to satisfy them all, not having more than thirty beds at the time, However, in answer to my protest and regret at my inability to accommodate so many, the men replied good naturedly, "Never mind, Ridgway, any port in a

storm." This only served to make me more anxious not to turn them away on such a night, so I sent my servants to all the stables in town in order to secure all the hay and straw they could, which I spread upon the floors covered with sheeting I already had. In order to compensate the men for such rough accommodation, I kept a bright fire burning the whole night through in a large American stove, around which was attached a copper boiler containing boiling water and from which I supplied the men with hot tea, coffee and chocolate. During the whole of that night my servants and I were kept constantly employed serving the men with these refreshments. Just before break of day, thoroughly exhausted with my efforts of the three preceding days, I was completely overcome by King Morpheus and fell in a drowsy, semi-conscious state, when I was suddenly awakened by experiencing a sensation as of an iceberg travelling down my back. Springing to my feet, I gave a tremendous shout, and in the semi-darkness discovered that what I had taken to be an iceberg proved to be a snowball which had been thrust down my back, and gazing

around I saw several men playing a similar action upon those sleeping around me, who, in turn, awoke and shouted, and descending the stairs likewise filled their hats full of snowballs and on their return pelted their assailants. Then everyone began pelting snowballs at each other, and there ensued a scene similar to the famous battle of Bunker Hill in 1776. I retreated downstairs as fast as my legs could carry me and saw that there were several feet of snow upon the ground outside. It appears that during the night the wind had changed, the frost had disappeared and a heavy snowstorm followed.

Having been asked by all the sailors to get up a good, substantial breakfast, Ah Mow and I went off at once to the butchers, bakers, etc., where we purchased a whole carcass of beef, mutton, scores of strings of sausages, eggs, hams, grocers, etc., in abundance and ordered them to be sent at once to my house, where on our return we built large camp fires in the yards, by driving three iron rods, from the tops of which were suspended iron hooks. I called Ah Mow and laid the matter before him and asked if he could possibly provide

a breakfast for so many men in so short a time. After a few minutes' consideration, he said—"All right, can do." He went out and in an hour appeared with a 'rickshaw laden with cooking utensils of all descriptions, and sufficient table ware to stock a large hotel, and he then began giving orders to the other servants. In the absence of proper cooking facilities, we constructed tripods of iron rods, under which we built wood fires and thereon in a few minutes we heard the welcome sounds of frying, frizzling and roasting. Everyone who knew anything about cooking lent a willing hand by displaying his talent in preparing a breakfast of abundance if not of delicacy for so vast a crowd of hungry men, who by nine o'clock could be seen seated on chairs, benches, boxes, and even on the floors, wherever space would permit; in fact anywhere and everywhere but in the saloon, for the reason of its having been transformed into a shower bath; not a dry spot could be seen anywhere in it owing to the constant dripping of water caused by the melting of the vast amount of snow used by the men of both navies in their struggle that morning of a repetition of that

renowned battle of Bunker Hill. Such a breakfast! Many of my friends and neighbors had gathered around to witness this most novel sight and volley after volley of laughter rent the air at the awkward position of Jack in such absurd and varied postures, endeavoring to satisfy the inner man, many of whom used his fingers in place of knife and fork, and with his plate resting on his lap; whilst each countenance wore a pleasant smile of contentment, and many were the rare jokes that passed from man to man. And oh! how often since that day have I regretted not having that scene depicted by photography, of those two hundred and fifty noble defenders of the two greatest nations in the world, enjoying themselves to their hearts' content on that memorable first morning of 1880. When the sailors had fully satisfied the inner man, they all proceeded to make the outer man presentable. When "settling up" time came, they called me, and the spokesman, on behalf of the others, said: "We'll all pay you one dollar each Ridgway for the damage and we hope that that will repay you for all your trouble." As I had decided to charge only 50

cents for bed and breakfast, I felt amply rewarded. After settling their accounts, they enjoined me to prepare a good Christmas dinner and all took their departure for the purpose of sight-seeing and at the same time allowing me and my servants to clear up the place and arrange dinner.

Just a word in passing as to my servant Ah Mow. He was Chinese, then a little over seventy years of age. He had been chief cook in a French family and had acquired a good knowledge of the French language. He also spoke English fluently. He had been recommended to me by Mr. Holt, and Mr. Ewen of the American Mission Press, for whom he had worked for some time, who had found him both honest and industrious rare qualities in the average Chinese servant. Therefore, I considered myself fortunate in possessing the services of such a valuable man at this crisis of my life.

CHAPTER V

A little before noon the men gradually began to return and found the place much improved in cleanliness and order. They all sat around tables

and passed their time in letter-writing, reading, playing games, etc. By half-past one all the chairs and tables that could be obtained were arranged into rows lengthwise across the saloon and fifty men on each side could be comfortably seated. The tables were loaded with roast beef, mutton, fowl, fruit, desert and sweet cakes, to all of which the men did ample justice, after which was placed upon the table that delicious and memorable emblem of Christmas so dear to the heart of every Englishman, the famous Plum-pudding, profusely crowned with sprays of holly, which elicited peals of admiration from all present. After all the chairs had been removed and the tables re-arranged with magazines, newspapers and games, they and the bagatelle table were taken quick advantage of by the men. A blue-jacket, who was appointed spokesman for the others, by the name of Tom Gaynor, addressed me as follows:—"Brother Ridgway, I have been commissioned by my shipmates as well as by our American Brothers, to speak a few words to you. When you first came on board about three years ago, we thought you were another of them relig-

ious cranks who come on board men-of-wars both at home and abroad, to bamboozle us, but after all the time we have known you, we have found that we were mistaken and find you one amongst ten thousand. You are a real friend of ours we have no doubt, especially when we know the terrible bereavement you have suffered." Then seeing that these words greatly affected me, he hesitated, then resumed as follows: "But we have now found that you are a true friend of ours. Through your efforts and perseverance every man on board my ship are members of the Order, except the Captain. We thank you for your devotion, especially when we consider this place was built with the money intended to provide a home for your wife and child in Shanghai." Facing the men, he continued: "Boys, there is one thing plain to be seen. Since I have known Mr. Ridgway he has proved himself thoroughly cosmopolitan, for it does not matter whether we are A.B., Officer or Captain, he treats us all alike; and no man in this place comes to you and asks if you have "found Jesus" or such like words; for Mr. Ridgway does not care what religion a man belongs to, he is wel-

come so long as we do not use bad language in his place." Then turning to me he exclaimed: "Brother Ridgway, it does not matter so long as we are all Jack Tars, you treat us on an equal footing, and that is why we like you." "Don't we, boys?" he shouted, and received a hearty response from all present. Again turning to me, he said: "Mr. Ridgway, we have all agreed to pay you one dollar each for the dinner, as we know that you have been put to a great expense on our account." "All right, Brothers, I replied, "I accept your kind offer, and thank you extremely for your kind appreciation and good wishes." Then every man came forward and deposited one dollar on a small table in front of me, shook my hand and wished me a Happy prosperous New Year.

The men then dispersed. Some of whom betook themselves to the bagatelle and shooting gallery not only to compete with each other but also in order to while away the time. Whilst others indulged in the perusal of books and periodicals, whilst again others amused themselves with games, of which there were a great variety. A few

left in order to purchase curiosities to send home. A number could be seen, pen in hand writing to their dear ones in the homelands far away. During which the delicious strains of music which floated through the rooms by the light and artistic touch on the piano by a Sister, and hard indeed must have been the heart of anyone opposed to Temperance principles to have been present and witnessed the joyous and peaceful scene and still have remained unchanged in his belief.

It being now time to prepare for supper, and like its predecessors, proved a source of joy and satisfaction to all who partook of it, and at its close everyone felt loath to leave the tables and would have lingered much longer had it not have been that a grand concert was to take place at half past seven o'clock. Punctual to that time the curtain arose on that well known comedy entitled, "Box & Cox" which was rendered in first class style, which, as upon every occasion it is played, created intense mirth. On its conclusion a variety of songs, recitations and readings interspersed with comic speeches followed in rapid succession until long after midnight. The civilian

portion of the audience expressed themselves delighted with the evening's entertainment. By the time the fingers of the clock pointed to two, everyone in the "House that Jack Built" was wrapped in profound slumber.

By eight o'clock every man of the port watch, after partaking of coffee and cake, returned on board, and thus made way for his comrades of the starboard watch.

CHAPTER VI

By ten o'clock the men of the starboard watch made their appearance in little groups to enjoy their forty eight hours' leave ashore.

Whilst they partook of light refreshment I noticed that their faces wore a sombre expression as though half disappointed and expectant. I was not kept long in ignorance of the reason of this for I learned that it was owing to the non-appearance of the Sisters, whom no doubt they had heard of from the men of the port watch that morning; but I soon soothed and somewhat satisfied them when I told them that now the holidays

were over, the Sisters were compelled to resume their various respective occupations.

Just then the man bearing the bill for the billiard table, which I had ordered, arrived and I was about to settle with him when the men interposed, and one of them taking the bill himself, placed it along with two dollars in his cap and passed it along to the other men, each of whom dropped similar amounts into the cap, and on returning it to me, I emptied the contents upon the table, I counted no less than one hundred and seventy dollars, which in plain but suitable language they presented to me, for which I expressed my deep feelings of gratitude. Then the men brought in the billiard table and placing it in a suitable position, at once commenced to play upon it with avidity and pleasure, considering it in a measure their own property.

By one o'clock the tables were again burdened by all the good things that the market could produce in order to give pleasure and comfort to our noble defenders. The comfort and pleasure thus derived were augmented by delicious strains of music which floated through the rooms by

the light and artistic touch on the piano by an officer.

As everything in this world must come to an end, that bountiful feast proved no exception, and on the tables having been removed and the seats re-arranged, it was soon discovered that the playing of dramas and negro minstrels were not the only talents possessed by men of both the American and English navies and the most charming glees, duets and quartettes were rendered that ever graced the stage, which followed each other in rapid succession until it was time to prepare for supper, and like its predecessors, proved a source of joy and satisfaction to all who partook of it, and at its close everyone felt loath to leave the tables and would have lingered much longer had it not have been that a grand concert was to take place at half past seven o'clock. Punctual to that time the curtain arose on that well known drama, in three acts, entitled, "The Lady of the Lake," which had been rehearsed during the past week on board by the crew of the Curicoa. In the personnel of the play there are three ladies, who, of course, had to be impersonat-

ed by young midshipmen, but with such grace, modesty and dignity did they act their several parts that all present were willing to swear that they were really members of the gentler sex. Although the play had been composed by the leading characters, yet it was pronounced to be equal if not surpassing any drama that had ever adorned the professional stage. The applause that followed the fall of the curtain was perfectly deafening until all the actors were perforced to once more stand before the audience. This brought the evening to a close. It was almost midnight before the echoes died away.

Although the snow had not entirely melted away in the streets, yet the weather was comparatively warm, and genial. The blankets and other bedding, thanks to the members of the feline family, who with the aid of my servants had laboured hard to dry on ropes outstretched across the upper rooms, contrived to make up over one hundred and fifty beds for their victims, the members of the rodent family in the "House that Jack Built." As only one hundred and forty were left to occupy these beds, the rest having gone on

board to sleep, there was ample space for accommodation for those that remained. By one o'clock peace and oblivion reigned supreme in the "House that Jack Built."

And now dear reader as it would not only be unnecessary but tedious were I to describe in details the various and amusing entertainments rendered by sailors, not only for their own benefit but also for the public, and suffice it to say that a better satisfied and happier crowd of men never left my place at the end of their leave, despite the disappointment they experienced owing to the non-attendance of the Sisters, which additional pleasure the port watch had enjoyed. Thus on the 5th of January the men of the three warships returned to their respective vessels.

To show the financial aspect of the situation, I was more than satisfied, for I found that with all my liabilities settled I had on hand no less than one thousand dollars. Had the men not been satisfied, my profits would not have amounted to half that amount; as each one paid double, sometimes more than double, the ordinary rate, as they would have had to pay in any other place

of entertainment in Shanghai where strong drink was sold. Besides, not only in not ending in necessary food and pure enjoyment, but very often leaving them penniless and suffering in consequence of quarrels and fights amongst their infuriated comrades and others as a result of partaking of the firewater, and which very often took the whole of the following month to restore them to their equanimity; which was certainly not the case with those who patronized the "House that Jack Built," for not only had Jack funds in hand to last him the rest of the following month, but a great many had been able to send a portion of their earnings to their wives and children or other dear ones at home.

CHAPTER VII

And now, dear reader, in order to account for the glorious transformation which Shanghai had undergone since 1875, it will be necessary for me with your kind permission to take a retrospective review as follows:—

In the Spring of that year, as I have previously stated, I arrived at Shanghai on my way to

Japan, but on account of the terrible evidences of strong drink there, I decided to remain and do what one man can to suppress the evil. Although belonging to Manchester, where at the time I left in 1865 (and I regret to learn that even to this day it is the worst drink-stricken city in England) drunkenness ran rampant, yet the sight of such caused me great pain and perturbation. Previous to leaving for the Land of the Rising Sun, I made the acquaintance of a fellow-teetotaler, whom I earnestly begged to assist me in the work of redemption, to which he consented, and promised to enlist others in the good work.

On my return to Shanghai in the autumn of 1877 I was pleased to find that my friend, whose name was Charles England, had faithfully kept his promise; for he had gathered around him several temperance friends, who had often petitioned the local government to cancel the licenses which enabled some twenty of the lowest specimens of humanity to waylay and ruin honest and hardworking seafaring men of all nations, and also by other foul means, robbed him of his hard-earned money, which ought by right to have gone

towards the support of his dear ones at home in their native lands. I at once joined these gentlemen in their noble efforts.

Two days after my return I became employed by a German piano and musical instrument repairer, by the name of Hahn, as joiner in the repairing of instruments, for which I received a good salary.

On the evening of the day that I was engaged I again met Charles England, and he informed me that he and several others had determined to send an application for a Charter from England for a new Temperance organization called the Independent Order of Good Templars, and there being only one more signature required, he asked me to accompany him to the Mission Press where the documents were placed ready for signature. I at once subscribed my name, which completed the list. Next morning it was dispatched with sufficient amount of money to furnish the rituals, books, regalias, and other articles requisite appertaining to the establishment of the Order.

As it would require at least three months for these articles to arrive, I and others lost no time

in petitioning the local government in assisting us in our work by closing the dens of infamy which then so besmeared the otherwise model settlement of Shanghai, whilst we at the same time enlisted the sympathies of the citizens in the good cause. We also spared no efforts in annoying the vile beings in the shape of the proprietors of these pest houses.

In due course the Charter and other paraphernalia arrived and within a week we not only found a suitable Lodge room but were also enabled to perform the ordination ceremony and held the first session, at which no less than thirty persons were enrolled. As may be supposed, it is no easy matter to establish an Order, the ceremony, not one of the members having previously witnessed. Consequently it was a difficult matter and we had to be guided entirely by the rules laid down in the ritual. But like everything else, time works wonders and practice makes perfect, so that by the end of the month we were well grounded in the work and our numbers were increasing rapidly, not alone owing to the novelty, but also to the great necessity of such a practical method of deal-

ing with intemperance, which everyone believed would prove effective. By these means we were greatly enabled to rescue hundreds from a drunkard's fate and prevented others from falling likewise. Of course, all this cost money, but what would I not sacrifice in the way of time, labor and money in the abolition of drunkenness and the rescue of my fellow creatures from a state too terrible to contemplate ; so I considered my time and money well spent and I fervently hope that all Brothers and Sisters think the same too. Although I personally never suffered from the effects of drunkenness, never having tasted the vile stuff, yet I have suffered through the drunkenness of others and been compelled to witness the terrible effects during the past forty years. I am more than assured that it is the duty of everyone, especially Christian ministers, to put forth every effort in suppressing drunkenness. But I regret to say that they (Christian ministers) or at least a great majority of them, are not only indifferent to but entirely opposed to the principles of total abstinence and maintain their stand upon the fact that their Master never advocated Temperance, but on

the contrary partook of the vile stuff and encouraged its use among his disciples. These ministers, on account of their position, do a great deal of harm in society by their example. No amount of argument will convince them otherwise. Certainly, there are a few of them who make a sacrifice of their principles and lend a helping hand to the Cause, but alas ! very few indeed.

CHAPTER VIII

At that time, Shanghai was a very busy place indeed, often as many as twenty vessels being anchored in the river at one time. Often, myself and others would visit these vessels for the purpose of inducing the men and officers to join the Order, frequently experiencing great difficulty in so doing on account of the tidal river. I remember on one occasion I had in my proposition book no fewer than thirty-six names of sailors on board of six ships anchored in a line in the centre of the river, whom it would have been impossible to convey ashore single-handed on the following lodge night. I therefore visited several members the previous evening and asked them to assist me

in the task, but each and every one to my disgust made excuses in order to evade the task, and by six o'clock of that Lodge night not one of them turned up at the Lodge. Undaunted by such disappointment I determined to undertake the task alone. Knowing that the tide would turn at seven o'clock, I engaged six sampans or small row boats at the jetty facing the foot of Nanking Road on which the Lodge was situated. Boarding one and telling the rest to follow, I stopped at the first vessel and calling to a man on board, I asked him to inform the men who had intended to join to come as I wished to speak to them, which they did. I called out to them that I would leave a sampan as I had yet five other ships up the river to call upon, asked them to prepare for shore and by the time I returned with the others they would be able to follow me at once. They readily agreed to my proposition. I then went to the second vessel and did likewise, then the third, the fourth, the fifth, and finally at the sixth ship I boarded her and hastened the men with their toilet, as it was then at the ebb of the tide. On re-entering my sampan I ordered the man to pull towards the

fifth ship. On arriving there the men were awaiting me, likewise at the fourth, the third, the second, and when we reached the first vessel the men had by that time been waiting sometime and were becoming impatient. Then I ordered the sampan men to make for the red light which was displayed at the foot of Nanking Road, and on arrival there we landed, and gathering my guests around me, I counted them. Satisfied that all was well, we proceeded to the Lodge, and telling them to await in the ante-room, I entered the Lodge and after performing my part, the time for initiation came round, when I proposed thirty-six men. The worthy chief templar asked me if they were present. "Yes," I answered, and informed him that they were waiting in the ante-room. Dispatching the Marshall and his assistants, they asked the usual questions and giving the necessary information about the Order they intended to join and its aim and object. In due course of time the Marshalls returned, saying that all were prepared as well as eleven other intending members, which the other members had proposed. So, as may be supposed, surprise and pleasure were depicted on

every member's face on seeing such a bevy of men enter the Lodge room. Seeing the great difficulty and loss of time which would be incurred in the ordinary course of the initiation ceremony, the Worthy Chief had his desk removed to the centre of the room and the forty-seven candidates stood in three semi-circles around him, so each one faced him, and thus the intitiation ceremony was performed quickly and satisfactorily. Any number of the grand Order can fully appreciate what satisfaction and pleasure we old members derived when the recess was called, in making the acquaintance of the new members and congratulating them.

Many a heart and home were made glad by that night's work, which was remembered many years afterward, for many of the new members had reached the lowest stage it was possible to fall to and I trust that it pleased God that each remained true to his vow.

It must not for a moment be imagined by the uninitiated that the great work of redemption could be thoroughly and quickly carried through by such means. Therefore, I made a proposition to the Lodge that we must face King Alcohol in his

den, as it was impossible for him under our regime to come to us. I proposed that we first of all should have constructed a large and imposing banner, inscribing upon it not only the emblem of our Order, Faith, Hope and Charity, but also the name and number of our Lodge, in letters of gold. Nevermind the cost—I for one was willing to bear my share. My idea was hailed with delight and enthusiasm and the Secretary immediately from my instructions drew a rough draft of such a banner I had in mind, which was shown to the members and highly approved of. Next morning, enough strong, royal blue silk was purchased to make a banner 10 ft. long by 7 ft. wide, the seams of which were neatly sewn by a Sister. Then it was taken to a Chinese artist, whose work was reputed to be satisfactory. He agreed to inscribe the banner as we ordered for the sum of \$35. When completed, several of the Sisters undertook to attach to its edges a heavy gold fringe which alone cost over \$20. Large tassels were bought for the poles and crosspoles, and standards were also procured and artistically painted, and altogether when completed, it was

acknowledged to be the finest work of art that was ever seen in Shanghai. We then engaged the services of a band of music on nights when the weather was favorable, to march the town in procession and sing our odes and do all in our power to induce not only seafaring men but citizens as well to join our order. We also included in our course those streets in which the vile dens of infamy were located and many hundreds did we by our eloquence and strenuous efforts induce to follow us and join the Order. We did all in our power to disturb the equanimity of the grog-shop keepers.

Not satisfied with these efforts, however, we determined to go a step farther, and as by this time we had many prominent citizens in our Lodge who had great influence with the Municipal authorities, we petitioned the Municipal Board to cancel the licenses of no less than seventeen grogeries.

The banner was carried through the streets in the following manner :—

The standards were encased in leather sockets, suspended from leather straps, from the shoulders

of two Brothers, whilst two juvenile members in front and two behind, by means of silken cords, prevented the banner being blown hither and thither by the wind; and on nights when there was no moon we carried Chinese torches, which are made of a kind of fibre from a plant thickly besmeared with bituman, and which give a splendid light. These torches are about a foot long and average only about a penny each. We also got made to order nine Good Templar flags, 15 by 8 ft. These were made of white bunting, on the corners of which were done, in deep blue bunting, each of the letters: I. O. G. T., and in the center, the emblem of Faith, Hope & Charity, consisting of a heart in red, an anchor in blue, and a cross in black. These flags were plainly visible a good distance off. They cost \$16 each; and whenever all the crew and officers of a ship became members of our Order, we presented them with one of these flags on condition that the Captain promised to hoist it and display same on the foremast when entering and leaving a port. During 1878 and 1879, no less than eight ships left the port of Shanghai flying our flag. Three of these vessels were men-of-

war, the "Curicoa" and "Trenton" (English) and the "Richmond" (American).

CHAPTER IX

Owing to the room which we rented from the Temperance Hall committee being too small for our purpose and also on account of many annoyances that existed between us and the religious portion of that Committee, who often wanted the room on nights on which we held our lodge meetings, in order to hold their revivals, we experienced great perturbation; so I proposed that we bestir ourselves and look around for a room to be exclusively devoted to the Order, so that when we desired special meetings or entertainments we could hold same at our pleasure. My proposition was hailed with delight by every member present and next day Brother England and I set out to look for such premises and after three or four day's search we found a suitable building on the corner of Kukiang and Kiangse roads, opposite the Cathedral compounds. It consisted of three rooms divided by two partitions, which I suggested be taken down, as my

experience in carpentering showed me that they could be done so without endangering the building. On enquiry, we found that the agent of the rooms was a certain R. W. Little, who at that time was one of the greatest tea merchants in China, and, as good luck would have it, a temperance man himself and the Secretary of the Municipal Board. So on approaching him on the subject he readily agreed to let us the rooms and do all the necessary improvements at his own expense on condition that we build a large staircase approaching the lodge room. The rent was to be \$45 per month. On the following Lodge night Brother England and I rendered our report to the Lodge, which was most enthusiastically received and it was decided that steps should be at once taken to commence the work of renovation and removal and I was appointed to superintend the work, which I did to the satisfaction of everyone. The room was ready for occupation within three weeks from that date. The lodge room measured 90 by 45 ft., at one end of which I built a stage about a foot high and some 10 ft. in width, and had a beautiful curtain drawn across the front of it,

which enabled us to hold concerts and open lodge entertainments.

By the beginning of January, 1879, the new Municipal Board was elected and Mr. R. W. Little was re-elected Secretary; and it was due to his strenuous efforts as a temperance man that the bill for the cancelling of licenses was passed, it being the first bill of that year. Some 17 grogeries were to be closed, but the proprietor of each was given a month's notice in which to vacate the premises. The passing of this Bill not only delighted the members but hundreds of others in Shanghai, who, although not temperance people, yet were in sympathy with our Cause and knew that the closure of such places would benefit the Settlement considerably, in that it would be the means to a great extent in abolishing much moral depravity.

Often on evenings when there was no lodge held, one of the Brothers and I would visit the vicinity where those vile places were situated and witness with horror the terrible orgies enacted in and around these pest houses. Sometimes there were vessels of several nationalities in the harbor

at one time and therefore it was natural that there would be disagreements between the sailors of such vessels while their minds were being inflamed by the vile compounds they partook of in these places and cause them to participate in outbursts of passion which often ended in bloodshed and sometimes death ; and the language employed on such occasions was enough to shock the most indecent of mankind.

Not only were these objectionable scenes the outcome of the grogeries alone, which indeed in itself was disgraceful in the extreme, but more especially regrettable was it in view of the fact that other curses also prevailed, in the shape of opium divans, gambling dens, and brothels, which extended in continuity, cheek and jowl, for two blocks along one or other of the then large thorough-fares in Shanghai, Woosung Road.

Therefore, as may be imagined, the downfall of these pest houses would be hailed with delight by every right minded person in Shanghai.

Although the prescribed month had elapsed without any evidence of complying with the law on the part of the proprietors of these grogeries,

but, on the other hand, still continued with their nefarious business by stealth. Therefore, the authorities decided, in order to prevent the illicit sale of liquor, to enforce compliance with the enactment, by adopting severe measures, as an only means to attain the end ; and consequently devised a scheme of stripping off the roofs of these pest houses, which was an unique indeed but only possible method. It finally had the desired effect, for owing to the severe weather then prevailing, the scheme obviously succeeded. However, even this extreme measure in the majority of cases was defied ; for some of the proprietors of these vile dens of infamy actually stretched canvass or tarpaulin across the upper floors for the purpose of keeping out the snow and sleet. But, of course, this method soon failed, both on account of the severity of the weather and the repeated raiding of the police.

It was about this time, or to be exact, on the 1st of April, 1870, that I received an engagement through Mr. Marshall, surveyor and architect for the English government for the purpose of superintending the construction of a new British legation

at Peking, and on my return the objectionable houses had been destroyed and new houses had been erected in place of the old ones.

CHAPTER X

And now my dear reader I will again pick up the thread of this narrative which I had dropped after the starboard watch of the three warships went aboard on the completion of their forty-eight hours' leave of absence ashore, on the morning of the 5th of January, 1880, and resume the even tenor of this story.

When the starboard watch had gone aboard and things had again assumed a quiet aspect I knew that it would be a month before I could expect another similar rush of business, so I therefore began to practise economy, for if I was able to just pay expenses during the month, I should consider myself fortunate. I paid off all my pecuniary obligations and dispensed with all the servants, excepting the cook and the boy. I had all the gas fittings taken down and replaced them with lamps, as gas was not only an expensive item but often produced an offensive odor in the

rooms. I also bought a large cooking range at the auction so there would be no necessity to adopt camp fires again as upon the opening of my establishment.

On account of the money saved by the blue-jackets subscribing themselves for the billiard table, I was thus enabled to construct a large shooting gallery in the shape of a long iron tube some 65 ft. long. I ordered a Chinese machinist to build it and instructed him to support it upon wooden tressels, the tube to extend through the whole length of the house from the street to the back yard. At the back end there was an iron plate with an inch hole bored through the centre behind which was a steel spring, which, when struck, would cause a bell to ring. The front of the plate was kept whitewashed by a brush operated by a wire pulley by a person at the street end so that the plate was always kept white except inside the hole. The mouth in the tube was in the shape of a funnel and was very artistically painted and around were placed revolvers and rifles. The Chinaman agreed to make the whole thing and erect same for \$75. This source of amusement I

had hoped would bring me in quite a revenue and my surmise proved correct. Within a week the shooting gallery was completed and everyone was highly pleased with it. I next got a large quantity of business cards printed, and distributed them on all vessels coming into the port of Shanghai, in the following manner :—

The card was some 4 inches long and 3 inches wide. On one side was printed: "The House that Jack Built, Sailors' Rest and Refreshment Rooms, Music and Concert Hall, Board and Lodgings and Temperance Refreshments at reasonable prices. The use of books, periodicals, writing materials and games free to all. Charles Ridgway, Proprietor." On the obverse side was a price list. Having learned to manufacture all kinds of mineral waters and cordials whilst in Australia, this knowledge proved very useful to me, as I was thus enabled to manufacture all my own drinks, which not only satisfied me with regard to their quality and purity but did not cost me half as much as if I had ordered them from the mineral water factory.

Although it was now between the general

leaves, yet I managed to pay expenses and by practicing economy to save \$1.50 by the end of the month.

Towards the end of January, 1880, the English warships left for Hongkong and only a German third-class cruiser, the "Wolf," remained in Shanghai. German sailors, like the English, greatly patronised the "Rest." I found these men gentlemanly in their conduct and intensely fond of music and songs and other amusements. They, with the help of the citizens of Shanghai, gave very delightful dramas on my stage; and the shooting gallery and billiard tables were also often in requisition.

On account of being constantly required at my establishment, I was unable to attend the Lodge very often now, which was a source of great regret to me; so I proposed that the members give up the present Lodge room and establish it in the large upper front room of my house, which proposal met with their approval. I offered the premises rent free. Thus I placed myself in a position quite the contrary to Mahomet; as because I could not go and attend the Lodge meet-

ings, I caused the Lodge to come to me; but Mahomet, on the other hand, despite the belief that he could move mountains, yet, when put to the test, it was found that the mountains would not come to him at his command, he did the next best thing, that is, he went to the mountains. On Lodge nights the beds and furniture were packed away to make room for the Meeting, at the close of which these articles were again replaced and put in order and all the members adjourned downstairs to partake of refreshments and held concerts and entertainments.

CHAPTER XI

Towards the end of February one English, one American and one French man of war had arrived in the harbour. Anticipating a very busy general leave, and finding that my funds were insufficient to purchase as large a quantity of foodstuffs necessary to fill my larder for so many men, I determined to apply to the Brothers of the Lodge for a loan of \$200, which I considered would be ample for the purpose. Therefore, at the next session I arose and addressed the

members as follows:—"Worthy Chief Templar, Brothers and Sisters, as I anticipate a large amount of business during the coming general leave, and as I have not enough money to get the necessary articles, I take this liberty to ask if you will accommodate me with the required sum, that is, \$200." To this my proposition they readily agreed, and on the following morning I received the money from the Treasurer. Therefore, I was now easy in my mind as to being able to fulfill all requirements for the comfort and pleasure of Jack ashore, and I may here say that when I attempted to return the various members their respective amounts which they had individually contributed in order to make up the \$200 I asked for, they one and all refused to accept same; but in affecting language expressed appreciation of my scheme and wished to help me more than they did hitherto for the services I rendered the Cause and the Lodge in the past. Thus, for the first time had I received money from the Order in the furtherance of Temperance. As I had anticipated, I had a "full house" during the whole of that General Leave, and what was better still, my establish-

ment was greatly patronised after general leave had expired owing to the fact that there was an unusual number of temperance men among the crews of these four vessels, and, as is well known, sober men have more liberty granted them in the way of shore leave than others ; and consequently my beds were in constant demand and the stage kept busy during the whole of that month.

At the end of the month in question I was enabled to deposit in the Bank no less than \$700, as I had now completed almost every requirement for the comfort and enjoyment of the sailor men, and, therefore, had to expend little beyond my current expenses, which now were comparatively light.

When first I established my place, I had to contend with Jack Frost in all his glory ; but now summer was approaching, I had a greater enemy to protect the sailors against, and that was the villainous mosquito. Therefore, I was obliged to purchase several hundred yards of netting, and engaged seamstresses to make it up into various required sizes.

Thus time sped on. Sometimes, there were

several warships in the harbor at one time; while at others it was completely devoid of men-of-war. With regard to merchant shipping, be it known that financially speaking they were very little benefit to me owing to the fact that the crews of this class of vessel are invariably paid at the port they sail from, generally Europe or America. Nevertheless, I gave these men the same privilege of enjoying the facilities of my place and made no distinction in rank, for which they were grateful. Otherwise, they would have to return on board and spend long, wearisome nights; so whenever I had a spare bed or two, I never turned any away wanting, as well as supplying a little refreshment.

Thus time passed away, during which the House that Jack built remained solid to its foundation and its larder never run short of malt in the shape of food.

One of the chief causes of the losses I incurred was as follows:—

Towards the end of a month there might be one, two or even three English vessels in the harbour. Anticipating a rush of business from them, I would purchase a large stock of provi-

sions, when to my dismay, the ships would often suddenly leave the port ; thus all the foodstuffs lay on my hands and put me to a severe loss. I therefore made it a rule in future, previous to ordering the provisions, to find out definitely if the ships would remain over the month, and during the Christmas holidays of 1880. With this end in view, I made personal enquiries from the Captains to ascertain if there was any likelihood of their departure before the holidays were over. Being assured of the fact of their remaining over the festive season in Shanghai, I spared no means in getting a large stock of foodstuff, and necessaries in hand to provide accommodation for an unusually large number of men. Two days previous to the 1st of January I visited all the warships in the harbour to encourage the men in drafting out a programme of entertainment for the coming general leave, to be played on my stage. I spoke to the Captains for the purpose of procuring bunting and accessories for the decoration of the house, which he readily granted me, and in addition, a few special men were told off to help me to decorate my establishment. One or two of

the Captains even asked me if I was in need of funds to carry out my purpose, and kindly offering to assist me if I should run short, to which I replied that as the past year had been a very successful one with us, I was not in need of any assistance, thanking them all the same ; and added that if the coming year continued as successful as the past one, I had every hope of making my venture an unprecedented success.

True to their word, the sailors brought the bunting and other requirements for the decoration of the House that Jack Built, both inside and outside, for the festive season. I was enabled to get a large quantity of provisions in stock as well as more beds and bedding for the accommodation of the men during the holidays. In addition, several of the Brothers and Sisters promised to assist me not only in waiting upon Jack but also help to take part in the entertainments, for which I felt grateful, as I knew that such assistance would please the bluejackets immensely, for a woman's presence especially exercises a powerful influence upon him, for a sailor, be he ever so callous in other respects, yet the presence of the opposite

sex bring to the surface all his better qualities, especially in a foreign land ; as then his mother, sister, wife or sweetheart are brought vividly to his mind and reminds him of Home Sweet Home.

CHAPTER XII

The 1st of January, 1881, arrived and punctually at nine o'clock the " boys " arrived in groups and patches, each with an extra suit of clothes tied up in a bundle and carried under his arm, which I ticketed and put away for him. This, for the reason that should there be a change in the weather during his stay ashore, he would be enabled to go on board with dry clothing. By 10 o'clock the house was crowded to excess. Many were writing letters to their dear ones ; some were reading ; whilst others were playing billiards, bagatelle and other games. A good many partook of refreshments as soon as they arrived at the house. The Sisters of the Order played upon the piano and rendered sweet music, which gave pleasure to the bluejackets as it took them in fancy back to their own firesides and dear ones at home, in far-off England or America. " Jack "

was thus transported to the happy days of his boyhood and enabled him to penetrate thousands of miles by land and sea to his dear beloved ones there in his own native land and his heart thrilled within him to think of the joy and pleasure it would give to those dear ones to see him and his comrades now, in their right minds, enjoying themselves to their heart's content, listening to the beautiful strains of music rendered by a Sister of the Order which he had joined and which had rescued him from a downward course to hell; and made him once more the honoured son and brother before he left home to defend his Queen and his country. I believe such thoughts as these also filled the minds of our Brothers, as was evinced by the attitude displayed by them when listening to the music, as their eyes were closed and a rapt expression overspread their faces. In many instances when I spoke to them they appeared not to hear me, which proved that their thoughts were far away.

For myself, I felt amply regarded for the expense and work I had incurred by the pleasure it gave to the bluejackets.

When the music ceased the men called me and said as in one voice: "Ridgway, we all want a good dinner and will pay 75 cents each for it," which was three times as much as I charged for a dinner. "What time can we expect to have it ready?" they asked. I told them that I could have it on the table by one o'clock. Then they one and all said: "Well in the meantime we will take a stroll around town and enjoy ourselves and give you room." Several Sisters and Brothers, who were not otherwise engaged, offered their services and were all very busy preparing a grand feast. Large as the new American cooking stove was, we still found it too small in which to cook such a large meal; so were perforced to again resort to the old camp fires in the backyard. Very soon the saloon was transformed into a large dining hall. By joining tressels and boards together, we managed to construct two long tables capable of seating over fifty persons each side, the whole length of the saloon. On the stage we also placed several smaller tables. Overhead, the ceiling was draped with two large flags, the British Royal Standard and the American Stars and Stripes,

interlaced. By one o'clock the metamorphosed two-legged "rats" began to assemble in large numbers in and around the House that Jack Built with full intent to partake of the "malt" that lay in the House that Jack Built, as the legend says.

But strange as it may seem, unlike the old legend, instead of the cats, according to the story, preventing them so doing, they not only, in this instance, invited but actually assisted such rats to partake of that malt that lay in the House that Jack built, in the shape of geese, turkeys, legs of mutton, rounds of beef, potatoes and vegetables, and everything else which goes to make up a good old English Christmas dinner; with the difference that it disappeared far quicker than did the malt in the legend; and if the smiling faces and merry chatter could be taken, then indeed did that malt give not only satisfaction but pleasure to those who partook of it; for a happier and jollier set of "rats" never before graced a festive board. On the completion of the heavier portion of the dinner the tables were cleared of the dishes and it almost groaned under the weight of the grand old English plum pudding, cakes, biscuits, sweets,

fruits, etc. with tea, coffee, chocolate and other temperance drinks to moisten the victuals and delicacies with, and many were the jokes and jests that went round the festive board, which gave more than ample proof of the keen enjoyment and appreciation these things elicited from the happy "rats."

When all the tables had been cleared away, Jack assisting in this work, as he does on any occasion, the men again resumed passing their time in games and reading and jovial conversation, in the midst of which some visitors were announced. On entering the saloon I at once beheld the English admiral, who took my hand and heartily shook it and introduced me to the other officers who accompanied him, both English and American, numbering in all about twenty; saying at the same time: "This is the man we want in every port. To think that he had never seen a similar institution in his life before—that it is only twelve months ago since he first established this business with only \$2,000 at his command, and by great effort and economy and a worthy determination, look what he has done. Look at

the men ; see how happy and contented they are. Such a man as Mr. Ridgway ought to be assisted by every right-minded and right-thinking Captain and Officer of every man-of-war, not only English and American, but every nationality as well, as he makes no distinction in that direction. Self is entirely out of the question with Mr. Ridgway—his whole mind is on making Jack happy whilst ashore and prevent him from going to his old Enemy—Drink.” At this all the other officers shook my hand and the men gave a hearty cheer, which almost unmanned me. The Admiral then turned to the men and said : “ Now my men, what do you think of Mr. Ridgway ? ” One and all waved their hats and gave three cheers and a “ bumper,” which was eloquent enough an answer for both myself and the old Admiral. After partaking of soft drinks, he and officers took their leave.

CHAPTER XIV

In the evening there was another great gathering of the men, who partook of a most bountiful and well-prepared supper, which was as equally

enjoyed as the dinner, presided over as it was by several Sisters and enlivened by beautiful strains of music. Jack was in the zenith of his glory. But oh! how different it would have been had such delicacies been bestowed upon him with the addition of alcoholic stimulants (?). Would he have been as joyous under its influence? No, a thousand times no, for in my previous travels, how often had I witnessed similar scenes served under the baneful liquor. Scarcely had the night been well advanced when quarrels and even fights and bloodshed had resulted, which positively proves that total abstinence is the only factor which shall govern the world and reform mankind.

By seven o'clock the tables had all been cleared and they had the chairs removed and placed concert fashion for the audience to witness another of those delightful impromptu concerts which experience taught me Jack could render successfully. As it would be tiring my readers to again give details, I will only say that each and every item was rendered admirably and merited the long applause it evoked, and,

in short, like all former efforts of Jack, this proved a grand success; and such will always be the case when similar entertainments are performed without the aid of Alcohol. In fact, it cannot but be otherwise, as not only Jack but everyone who is a partaker of that vile drug must honestly confess that it is an enemy of pure, rational enjoyment.

It may be argued by many of the opposers of Temperance, that I had ulterior motives for the seeming interest that I took in the establishment of my place for the benefit and entertainment of Jack ashore. I think, if the same people would only stop and think for themselves, such an erroneous idea must fall to the ground, because, in the first place, when I undertook to establish my first institution, I had sufficient money to enable me to commence in other and more lucrative employment or business, or I could have left for other lands and succeeded in some other profitable employment.

Thus, after spending their forty-eight hours' leave ashore, the men of the port watch left in order to make room for those of the starboard

watch, who arrived at ten o'clock on the morning of the 3rd of January, 1881.

As on the previous New Year the men of the starboard watch felt keen disappointment on account of the absence of the fair Sisters, who had by this time returned to their respective occupations, now that the holidays were over.

Nevertheless, like all good and true Tars, they made the best of a bad job without complaint and enjoyed themselves as fully as schoolboys on an excursion.

The billiard and bagatelle tables were in constant demand. The shooting gallery was well patronised, as contests were often played by a ship's crew of one nationality against a ship's crew of another. I did not allow playing for stakes of money, not caring to encourage gambling in my establishment. They, therefore, confined themselves to playing for the price of the cartridges or for refreshments. The absence of the ladies did not appear to interfere much with their amusements or appetite, but rather they seemed to increase, for the men were not restrained in their manners.

Altogether, everyone declared to me at the end of the General Leave that they never enjoyed a happier time as on that occasion, and everyone wished me lifelong prosperity. Their good wishes most certainly would have been realised had such leaves been frequent and with as good results, for on my settling all my accounts and paying off all the liabilities I had specially incurred, I found that I was over a thousand dollars to the good. But alas! the realisation of such good wishes was not in store for me; for before half the year had passed away I was brought to a full sense of the old adage: "Man proposes but God disposes," but I must not anticipate.

CHAPTER XV

Just before the end of January, I expected an unusually large general leave, there being no less than six warships in the harbour of Shanghai at that time. I was in the act of filling my larder to its utmost capacity, when lo and behold! on the morning of the 29th a telegram came, calling all the ships to the Mediterranean and accordingly

they all left the next morning. Thus, I was left bemoaning my fate, with over \$300 worth of foodstuffs, on my hands. Even should the trouble, which was responsible for the departure of the men-of-war from Shanghai, be short-lived, still it would be a long time before I could look for their return. Therefore, fully realizing the necessity of husbanding all my resources as long as possible, I accordingly dispensed with all the servants I could spare, retaining only Ah Mow and one small boy.

I contented myself with visiting merchant and coasting vessels and inviting the crews to visit my place in order to enjoy themselves whilst ashore. Many took advantage of my invitation and made use of not only the games and shooting gallery but very often held enjoyable concerts on my stage. Of course, the dining and refreshment tables were not often in requisition, owing to merchantmen invariably taking meals on board their vessels.

Thus January and February passed away and still no warships made their appearance, and in spite of the strictest economy, my funds grad-

ually dwindled away and before the end of March I found myself very short of cash ; and my future prospects began to assume a gloomy aspect. Just then two American gunboats, the " Palos " and " Manacacy ", came sailing up the river. But on boarding them, I found very few temperance men among the crews. Still, a great number made use of the Rest and appeared to enjoy themselves very much and several were induced to join the Order. Thus, I was enabled to not only pay current expenses but to save a little besides. But alas ! before the end of April they left the harbour and by the beginning of May my funds became exhausted. Therefore, I was put to a severe loss by the absence of the warships, receiving very little support from other sea-faring men and still fewer citizens or civilians ever came to my establishment. Most of those who did were generally the " beachcomber " class, who instead of benefiting themselves in my house, tended very much to ruin me for on account of my inexperience I gave them a great deal of credit that I ought not to have done ; and thus was I swindled out of hundreds of dollars. The money I had saved gradually

dwindled away and while I economised all I possibly could yet when I looked over my books I discovered a large amount owing to me from this class of men, as well as many civilians and merchantmen, which I vainly tried to collect.

I realized that something must be done and at once or else I should lose my place, not being then able to pay my rent and several other bills.

On the 1st of May the landlord came for his rent and I could not pay it, and asked him to postpone his demand for a few days as I hoped to collect several bills which would be more than sufficient to settle my accounts, but alas! two of my creditors who owed the larger amounts suddenly left for Europe, and paid their passages with the money which rightfully belonged to me. This rendered me liable to the landlord's mercy.

Thus May passed away and still no signs of men-of-war arriving in Shanghai.

A few days before the 1st of June I was advised by many to seek help from the residents, as it was assured me that it would be forthcoming seeing that my house was by now established and well

known and they would stretch a nerve to prevent its dissolution. This I determined should not occur ; and by the advice of friends I published several copies of subscription lists in as comprehensive a manner as possible. On the morning of the 1st of June I presented myself at the Custom House and handed it to the present Sir Robert Hart, Chief Commissioner of the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs. After carefully reading it, he took his pen and wrote his name and \$50 against his signature. He handed me a cheque for that amount, at the same time remarking: "I have seen your place and it does you great credit Mr. Ridgway. We must not let it collapse, as it has been the means of doing great good amongst seafaring men and incidentally it has benefited Shanghai." He then pointed out to me five or six other gentlemen seated at their desks, saying: "I think they will subscribe" and sure enough, not one gave less than \$25. I then went to the other employees and examiners. In all I collected no less than \$375 in the Customs' service, which I considered was not bad for a beginning. Feeling encouraged, I visited the Banks, various business

houses, Clubs and the Police Department for the following three days, during which time I collected no less than a thousand dollars, which enabled me not only to pay all my indebtedness to the landlord and others, but also to place to the credit of my establishment \$200 in the Bank. Thus I rejoiced at knowing that the "House that Jack Built" was again on a sound basis, which encouraged me to face the enemy Drink again.

With the exception of one second-class cruiser, which came towards the end of September and remained until the 8th of October, I did very little business; hardly sufficient to pay current expenses, in spite of the rigid economy I exercised; and thus time passed on until the beginning of January without the visitation of warships of any nationality. By this time, my liabilities again amounted to several hundred dollars and the landlord to whom I was principally indebted would not be put off in spite of my appeals and assurances of a good time coming. He accordingly took legal proceedings against me.

The day of the trial duly arrived and when I appeared in Court, the court room was crowd-

ed, the occupants of whom I saw at a glance sympathised with me, and they asked me why I did not go to them for assistance in the form of a subscription. "Well", I said, "I am ashamed, and, besides, I thought that war-ships would really come." Sir Patrick Hughes, the British Consul-General, who acted in the capacity of Judge, on opening the case asked through the interpreter if the complainant knew sufficiently the nature of an oath to allow of its being administered. On being questioned on the subject, the landlord answered in the following manner:— "Suppose me speakee true, me no speakee lie, but suppose me speakee lie, *vous me die*," at which definition there was loud laughter in the court room. After a little debate with the attorney, the oath was allowed to be administered, and the case proceeded. On being asked why he had summoned me, the landlord said: "He no pay me one two three moon house money, me wanchee velly muchee." At the close of the trial the judge granted judgment to the plaintiff, at the same time advising him not to take active steps for ten days, which advice the plaintiff decided to fol-

low, very reluctantly, it is true. The Court then arose.

CHAPTER XVI

Next morning I visited an old friend of mine, Mr. Wainwright, the attorney-general, who had often on previous occasions kindly given me legal advice. I laid the whole matter before him and asked his opinion. After a few moments cogitation, he said :

“ Well, Mr. Ridgway, I’m sorry for you ; you have struggled hard and deserve a better fate, but as you say, your liabilities are very heavy, and your chances of recuperation are very meager indeed, as you are not sure when your friends, the bluejackets, will come. So the only chance for you is to save what you can and when opportunity arrives, make a new start. A man-of-war is now at Woosung and it is coming up to-morrow morning, so the “ boys ” will be here to help you. They may not stop for general leave and so help you financially it is true, but there is another way.” I asked him what he meant. He said : “ It is not for me to tell you what to do—I dare

not; but to-morrow morning begins the Chinese New Year and all the Courts are closed for one week. Now, can you guess the rest?" The truth beginning to dawn upon me, I remarked: "Would it be safe?" He answered: "This landlord cannot take action when the Courts are closed. "Now is that plain to you?" "It is," I replied "and I will follow your advice." Thanking him and bidding him adieu, I returned to my house in much the same spirit as the proverbial drowning man clutching at a straw.

I called Ah Mow and instructed him to accompany me in search of new quarters, and in no less than half an hour we discovered three, small vacant Chinese houses on Boone Road, just below Seward Road. Ah Mow rented the three dwellings, the rent being \$15—altogether. We at once engaged about a dozen coolies to pull down the two partitions, converting the three houses into one, knowing that it would not endanger the building, as I left the posts in the center of each partition still standing.

At seven o'clock next morning Ah Mow prepared a substantial breakfast which I was sadly

in need of. At ten o'clock, as Mr. Wainright advised, an English man-of-war, the "Curocoa," came sailing up the river; and scarcely was she secured to her moorings when I boarded her. My old friend the Captain welcomed me as usual, but on seeing my depressed air, anxiously enquired: "You seem to be in trouble Ridgway. Can I help you in any way?" I said: "Well, Captain, I am afraid not." "Why, has anything happened to the Rest?" he asked. "Yes" I replied, "a serious calamity has occurred. When I tell you that my purpose in coming on board this morning is to ask you for a wrecking party, perhaps you will realise the nature of my trouble." He seemed non-plussed for a short time. "A wrecking party," he exclaimed.

I told him that only one general leave has been held during the last twelve months. Only one general leave has been enjoyed at my house." He replied: "I see, that is true. It is a wonder how you have kept the house open at all under those circumstances" he further observed. "I could not have done so." I said "had I not been assisted by a subscription some months ago."

“ Well, cannot you get up another subscription ? he suggested. “ It is the middle of the month ” I replied, “ and there is no chance of raising any funds now ; and my liabilities will not allow me to wait a day longer.” He expressed his sympathy. Calling the master-at-arms, who pleasantly wished me good morning, the captain explained matters to him, and instructed him to provide me with what I wanted, and handing me \$25, he departed.

By one o'clock of that day the wrecking party were at my house, comprising some twenty stalwart men, who at once set to work to take down the stage and fittings, carefully rolling up the scenery, and so forth. They then took down the frame work of the stage which they tied together into bundles sufficiently large enough for two men to carry at one time, piling same in my back yard ; and all that day and part of the night the blue-jackets worked with a will, and after partaking of a good supper, we held an impromptu concert.

The next morning, which was the opening of Chinese New Year, I opened the doors and took down the signboard with regret. It had even been

witnessed by an amused royalty, for on the occasion of the visit of the late Duke of Clarence and his brother Prince George (now Prince of Wales) in their tour around the world in 1881, on passing my establishment in their carriage and seeing the legend: "The House that Jack Built," they broke into uncontrollable laughter, for, as if to give effect, there were at that time a number of Jack Tars at all my windows and doors, as well as a few on the roof, waving their hats as their royal highnesses passed by.

In less than an hour we received a visit from the irate landlord, who came in greatly excited and demanded to know what we were doing. I informed him that we were moving to more congenial quarters, as it was inconvenient to stay on the present premises, seeing the roof was in bad condition. "You cannot," he said, and at the same time made an effort to prevent us from removing the furniture, etc. I quietly went to him and tapping his shoulder said: "Mr. Ah Quin Tong, just be advised by me. To save further trouble, see what we can do without your assistance. Take my advice, I do not need your help,

as you will soil your beautiful New Year clothes." He fumed and blustered and called upon his friends and shouted: "Ta! Ta! (meaning in English "rally! rally!"). At this cry a number of celestials in gay holiday attire gathered in numbers around the excited landlord, who promised to compensate them for their assisting him. On they came, headed by the landlord, looking more like a burlesque troupe than peacefully inclined citizens. They attempted to wrest the various articles of furniture from the sailors and consequently there followed a small mellee. The bluejackets called me to them and asked me what they should do. I replied by saying: "Remember Nelson, boys, and go for them. I will be responsible." "All right," they responded in one voice, and instantly dropping that which they were carrying, made one desperate dash upon the Chinese, shouting: "Down with the longtails!" at the same time striking right and left and kicking with all their might. Strange to say, the celestials returned the attack, but only for a short time, although the latter outnumbered Jack by over three to one. The celestials' beautifully colored robes were

stripped into shreds, which, with their queues trailing behind them as they ran, presented a ludicrous spectacle and caused roars of laughter and jests from the onlookers. The chase continued until the small iron bridge was crossed, when the sailors returned, and resumed their task. They had not worked long, however, when the landlord returned in a most dilapidated and dismantled condition, heading a large crowd of Asiatics, who re-commenced the attack on the sailors, who were not slow in repulsing them, this time scattering them in all directions. As may be imagined, a very large crowd of both Europeans and Asiatics had by now assembled to witness the now more than exciting scene, many of whom had taken part in the affray. Seeing that nothing could be gained by fighting, the landlord appealed to several policemen, who appeared to be greatly enjoying the fun. In answer to the appeal, they quietly told him to leave the things alone. "But he no pay me house money," protested the landlord. "Well take out a warrant," they advised. "Me no can. Police Court he no open," responded the now frenzied landlord. "Well, we haven't

got the key," they laconically replied. This proved poor consolation to the enraged landlord.

The removal continued without further abatement until four o'clock in the afternoon, when the "House that Jack Built" was entirely stripped of all its appurtenances and belongings, even to the lamp. The shooting gallery I sold the night previous for \$50 to the same Chinaman who had erected it, thus only losing \$25 by the transaction. I returned the piano the night before to its owner. During the whole of this time the coolies who had been engaged to take down the partitions in my new houses were working under the supervision of Ah Mow, but still they were only a little more than half way through the job. When we had got everything to our new quarters, Jack with his alacrity completed the demolition, the work taking less than half an hour to accomplish, whilst the coolies found all they could do to clear the debris to make room for the furniture as it came. When all had been deposited in the back yards and upper floors of the three houses, I purchased a large quantity of lime, which was soon converted into whitewash, and by the aid of

several brushes, the walls and ceilings of the new establishment had received in a very short time the first coat of whitewash for years; and by the time the workmen were back to where they commenced the wall was dry and ready for a second coat. Then the furniture was placed in order, and it was not until eight o'clock in the evening we could sit down to a good supper that Ah Mow had prepared; and a happier and more jovial crowd I do not believe could have been found in Shanghai that night, and in spite of the terrible ordeal through which I had passed, yet I managed to appear cheerful and looked forward to happy days in the future.

I determined to at once dispose of as much furniture as I possibly could, retaining that which I would absolutely need for a future "Sailors' Rest." So with that end in view, Ah Mow and I next day washed and varnished and otherwise renovated several articles for disposal at the auction rooms, for which I received a fair price. The rest I managed to stow away in one of two houses until I should need same.

CHAPTER XVII

One day, whilst attending an auction, I noticed a large number of school books with blackboards, slates, pencils and other paraphernalia about to be offered by the defunct proprietor of some school. The idea at once suggested itself to me that now was an opportunity to enter into a business which I believed would realise me more money than either carpentering or anything else, as I knew the Chinese were very anxious to learn the English language. Speaking to Ah Mow on the subject, I suggested that he act as interpreter in my projected school. Therefore, when these articles were offered for sale by the auctioneer, I nudged Ah Mow to bid and whispered him the amount he should go to, and to my astonishment, one and all of these articles were knocked down to him at a remarkably low figure. There were the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth standard books, some four hundred in all, besides slates, pencils, etc., which were all "knocked down" for the sum of \$35, which was remarkably cheap

considering that the books were almost new. On arrival at my premises with my bargain I at once set to work for the new vocation which I was about to undertake. First of all, I advertised in all the local Chinese and English periodicals. Then purchasing a large amount of lumber, I made, with the assistance of another carpenter, desks and forms suitable for a schoolroom, and in one week from the time I made my purchase I was ready to open the doors, under favorable auspices, of my school, which was advertised by a lamp outside my house. Intending pupils poured in in great numbers, and having arranged and divided the school into three sections I qualified them into first, second and third classes. For the first class I charged \$6 per month, for the second \$4, and for the third or primary \$2.

I therefore devoted all my time to the present business I had in hand, and in less than a month my school-room was in active operation, with over forty scholars. I was the only teacher and Ah Mow the only interpreter for the Chinese section of the school. It was well that I adopted

this course, for no warships now ever remained in Shanghai for General Leave until the following May. Therefore, had I not taken this step, I might have fared worse.

Thus time passed on and the number of my scholars steadily increased until Ah Mow and myself found our time fully occupied. Besides three sessions a day, that is, at nine o'clock until noon ; and two to four p.m. ; and seven to nine in the evenings, I had other duties to perform, that is, writing letters, making out bills, documents, specifications, contracts, etc. Also, collecting bills for other people and for two or three firms who paid me from ten to fifteen per cent. commission. Altogether, I found my time more than fully occupied, and often was too busy to partake of my meals.

My scholars had by this time gradually dwindled away until now there were only some ten, and more schools were yet being opened in various parts of the city.

Therefore now possessing over \$1,000, which I had saved since I left the House that Jack Built, and as I also learned with deep regret that on

account of most of the Temperance members of the Municipal Board were replaced by men not possessing sympathy with the Cause of Temperance, several licenses being granted in both the English and American settlements, I decided once more to take up arms against King Alcohol by establishing another Sailors' Rest. With that end in view, Ah Mow and I searched the two settlements for a favourable position, but failed to find any except in a back street, which, of course, was out of the question, as Jack, when looking for any other place than a grog-shop, will not put himself out of the way to find it, I may mention that by this time, one or two English and American warships were almost always in the harbor. Brother England advised me for the present to open a place on Schezuen Road, so one day Ah Mow visited the locality, where we found two attached houses vacant, each of which was \$10 per month. Although not frequented by sailormen, yet many passed that street, as it was a short cut to their landing stages. So I thought, although not anticipating a busy time, I could more than pay expenses by bringing the men to

it. Accordingly I at once rented the two and after disposing of what goodwill and equipment were attached to my school to a missionary, I removed the balance of my effects to the new premises, which effects included a self-acting organ, standing over 6 feet high and was 4 feet wide by 2 feet deep, which I had by chance bought at Brother England's auction sale for the remarkably low sum of one tael and 60 cents, equal to \$2 or 8 shillings. Certainly, at the time of purchase, one would scarcely have it for a gift, so dilapidated was its appearance. However, I saw at a glance that all it required was warm water and soap, and a little expense and labor to put it in working order. I afterwards learned it was sent from a sailing vessel to Charles England, but according to the maxim that *experience make fools wise*, I gained sufficient knowledge while at Mr. Hahn's in repairing musical instruments, could see at once that it was a valuable instrument indeed, the Captain informed the auctioneer that it had cost him Twenty-five Pounds sterling before leaving England, but that the crew on the voyage out had utterly spoilt it. During the few leisure moments

when not engaged in the school routine, I, with the assistance of Ah Mow, cleaned it thoroughly from its thick coat of dust that completely enveloped it. I had a new pane of glass put over the door which I gilded and painted in an artistic manner, and polished and finished the whole of the woodwork, brightening up the brass, straightening out the pins on the six barrels which were located beneath the works in three drawers. The only piece of mechanism that was missing was a small brass shaft, which cost me ten cents to replace. After winding up the large leaden weight which weighed over fifty pounds and pulling the lever, it astonished everyone within fifty yards from the house, by its beautiful and resonant peals of music poured forth. I was actually offered \$150 for it by a Chinese musical repairer, which sum I refused.

Therefore, with the above addition to my new establishment, I had no dread in regard to musical attraction for the men, as the tunes my organ played were varied and as follows:—A waltz, a schottische, a polka, an overture, the national anthem, and a gallop, each of which

could be played continuously or be changed to another air by just replacing one barrel with another.

My new establishment in Schezuen Road was not only out of the way, which was very difficult for the sailors to discover, but very much smaller than my former Rest. Still, not being able to find a better location or a larger house, it was a case of Hobson's choice, and therefore I was obliged to do the best I could under the circumstances. I decided to name my new establishment "The Casino and Sailors' Rest," thinking by this coupled title to bring me in a greater influx of patronage.

There not being sufficient room to erect a stage, I simply built a platform a foot high above the floor, with a curtain hanging near the edge, at one side of which I placed the piano that I had bought at the auction, the organ being situated at the other end of the hall. Everything was neatly arranged and the tables and chairs placed in proper order, and all that was now needed were the customers to make use of them, but alas! very few customers came, which was dishearten-

ing in the extreme, as I had taken especial pride in fitting up this establishment. I caused business cards to be printed and distributed daily on board all vessels coming into port. At last, on the 15th of December, two gunboats arrived, one English called the "Alacrity," and the other an American called the "Monocacy," which I at once visited upon their arrival, but discovered, to my dismay, that there were very few temperance men aboard these vessels. However, by persistent effort and eloquent persuasion I induced a great number of the tars to become members of the Order, who in turn brought many of their comrades to the Rest, and thus things began to take a lively turn, as many civilians also visited my place now.

CHAPTER XIII.

On the 1st of January, 1884, we held a formal opening celebration, giving a free tea-fight, as the men called it, which was followed by a grand variety concert composed of musical selections, songs and comic speeches, all of which were well rendered and elicited loud applause, as it was not until after midnight before the curtain fell. Some

fifty men slept in my place that night, all of whom partook of a good breakfast the next morning.

During the following three weeks we did very well, but not near as much as in the former House that Jack Built, whenever ships were in the harbor.

On the 27th of January the above mentioned gunboats left Shanghai, and things again resumed their normal condition; when I did not realize more than current expenses, and therefore thought that it would be better to try and find a more conspicuous location. With this end in view, Ah Mow and I again commenced house-hunting, when we discovered a place situated on the Yang-king-pan Creek, which is a small, serpentine creek measuring some ten feet from shore to shore, and at great expense was boarded up on each side to prevent the earth from caving in, and at the various street crossings, small bridges were erected over it, the one on the Bund being built of iron and stone as there is a vast amount of traffic crossing it from the English Settlement to the French concession. I discovered that although the place had once been a large

edifice, yet now it was in a most deplorable and tumbledown condition. Knowing that I should not be allowed to rent it myself owing to my being a citizen of the English settlement, Ah Mow said he would try to rent it in his name for me, as he was well acquainted with the French language, to which course I was agreeable. Next day he approached the owner of the property and agreed to occupy it and put it in good repair in consideration of a great reduction in its rental, to which the landlord conceded. We then engaged a master-carpenter and builder to take dimensions and make a thorough inspection of the condition of the walls, floors and roof, all of which he agreed to do and put same in good order for the sum of \$500, to which I acquiesced on condition that the contract would be completed by the 25th of March. We signed the agreement and he put his men to work at once upon the building, and by the 25th of March sure enough it was ready for occupation. I then engaged a number of coolies to pack up and remove my furniture and household effects and carry them all over to the new premises.

Two English and one American warships were in the harbor at this time and upon enquiry I found would remain for a long time. I informed the Captain and officers of my intention of opening another Sailors' Rest establishment on the French side of Yang-king-pang Creek, at which they appeared delighted, as everyone who visits the East knows the nature of that locality, and how many poor sailors have come to an untimely end in that hotbed of crime and debauchery, as the French concession of Shanghai. They promised me every assistance in their power to get the place ready to have an opening night by the 1st of April. Calling the master-at-arms, the captain of one of the English warships told him to take instructions from me and grant me anything that I wanted in the way of assistance for opening my new place. My first request was for some twenty men to come the next morning to fit up the stage and the beds, whom he promised to send, and they duly came. Things went as merrily as a marriage bell and Jack was in the zenith of his glory, singing and cracking jokes all the while, getting the place ready in time for a grand open-

ing of my first venture four years ago, and therefore knew what was wanted. Ah Mow here proved of invaluable service to me. Day and night he could be seen rushing hither and thither, making beds, spreading the carpets and doing all the domestic work required. Everyone was jubilant at the anticipation of a grand and glorious success and the downfall of King Alcohol once more. By the morning of the 31st of March everything was in "shipshape." I had again applied the old familiar name—the House that Jack Built—to this my latest venture, which inscription was engraved in large and conspicuous letters that could well be read with the naked eye from the Bund nearly 100 yards distant. A new and large lamp was suspended from the front of the house with the same title printed thereon and both inside and outside the place was spick and span, In short, everything seemed to point to a long and prosperous career and our hearts were made happy in anticipation of once more being enabled to put forth my efforts in the suppression of that vile enemy of Man. But alas! misfortune again dogged my footsteps, for whilst partaking of dinner, in

walked a French gendarme with a large official looking envelope addressed to me. On breaking the seal, I read to my utter dismay and disgust as follows:—

Sir, As it is your intention to open your new premises on the 1st of April, I request that you at once visit me at my office with reference to this matter, and oblige,

Respectfully,

.

Consul-General for France.

Anticipating the worst, I could not partake of more dinner, but put on my hat and coat I took my steps towards the French Consulate and enquired for the Consul-General, and on my being presented to that gentleman, he mentioned me to a seat.

Being but slightly acquainted with the English language, and my knowledge of French being still less, he conducted his conversation through an interpreter, as follows:—

“What is your intention in opening the premises in the French concession?” I informed him

that my intention in opening a place of refreshment, and entertainment, and accommodation, was principally for seafaring men, to be conducted on strict temperance and moral principles. He then asked me if I was a French subject. I told him that I was not. "Then in whose name are the premises taken?" he asked. "In that of my partner, Ah Mow," I answered. "Oh, a Chinaman," he remarked. "Yes," I responded. "Is he a French subject?" "I believe he is," I said. "So far he has been with me several years in the capacity of cook," I continued. "Have you paid or do you intend to pay your license?" he further questioned. I told him that I was not aware that a license was required for such a place of business. I had established similar institutions in the English settlement and was entirely exempt from paying license. He told me in the French concession a large revenue was required in order to operate and maintain the police, docks and roads. Therefore, it was absolutely necessary that everyone living within its precincts should contribute towards it. "Besides, we have a revenue to send to France periodically, which is very heavy.

Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you pay at least \$300 per annum, that is, \$200 for the Refreshment Saloon license and \$100 for a place of entertainment, and that is the lowest basis on which I can allow you to open your premises," he concluded. I informed him of my inability to pay that amount or anything like it, but would refer him to Mr. Hughes, the British Consul-General, for information regarding my intentions and my character. He replied by saying that it was not necessary to do so; that if I could not pay the required \$300 I could not open my place, and, furthermore, if I attempted to do so, force would be used against my carrying out my plans. I pleaded with him with all the eloquence I could put forth on behalf of the sailors and pointed out to him the terrible temptations that beset the sailor time and again owing to the obnoxious influence of alcohol, which it was my intention to abolish; and eventually to close up the many establishments where it was dealt out to the unwary, which establishments abounded along the French side of the Creek. To this he simply shrugged his shoulders as only a Frenchman

knows how, and indifferently remarked: "We French do not recognise temperance principles. We look upon all places of refreshment on the same scale and therefore make no distinction—each must pay the same licenses or fees; and as I said before, you must not open your intended establishment unless you pay \$300, and at once." Seeing that it was useless to argue with him further, I left the office in, as may be surmised, anything but a pleasant mood; for I returned home more like a drunken man than a normal one; as I was told afterwards that I staggered rather than walked along the pavement. On entering my house, Ah Mow ran to me and asked me if I was sick. It took sometime before I could bring myself to acquaint him of the sad facts of the case, but like a true friend, when I did tell him so, he did not give way to despair but instead on the other hand urged me not to waste my time in fretting but to try and find someone to help me out of my difficulty. Taking a cup of tea, I at once repaired to the Cathedral and found the new dean, Mr. J. F. Smith, in the parsonage. At his request, I took a seat near him and related the subject of my visit.

He patiently listened to me to the end, and when I concluded, he non-chalantly remarked : " Well, Mr. Ridgway, why do you come to me ? " " On account of the position you hold, " I retorted. " I thought that by your influence it would be possible to get the French consul-general to alter his decision, or that you might advise me what is the best thing to do in the matter. " " I advise you ? " he exclaimed, " why do you think that ? " " Why, in the interests of the distressed, by lightening the burden, as our Master did, of the weary and heavy-laden, " I replied. At this he sarcastically smiled. " That is very good in theory, Mr. Ridgway, but it will not pass current in real life. You have come to the wrong place. You should go either to the British Consul-General or to the municipality, in order to get redress or assistance. " " But do you not, " I said, " in your capacity as a minister of the gospel of Christ, sympathize with the drunkard, and do you not recognise our efforts in trying to suppress the evil of drunkenness ? " " No, " he emphatically answered, " I do not. If a man wishes to drink and destroy himself, it is his business and not mine to interfere—let him do

so say I. Neither is it your business Mr. Ridgway, permits me to say. As I have told you before, you have come to the wrong place." After a little more conversation and finding myself becoming excited and afraid to give vent to my rising indignation I arose and without bidding him goodbye, left the parsonage in great haste. I then at once proceeded to the British Consul-General's office and was fortunate in finding Mr. Hughes in. Showing me into his private sanctum I related all my trouble to him and begged him with all the ardour that I could put forth to intercede on my behalf and thereby save my house, when after a few moments of deep thought, he said: "Yours is indeed a sad case Mr. Ridgway and I am very sorry it is so, but I am afraid that my influence in the matter will be of little avail, but knowing your character and that your intentions are genuine, and in consideration of the good you have done in the past for the benefit of Shanghai, I promise you that I will do whatever lies in my power to help you in this matter. Just sit there for a while," and taking up his pen he wrote a letter which he addressed to the French Consul-General

and when he finished, he allowed me to read it. It appealed most fervently to that gentleman's sense of honour. It spoke of my character, praiseworthy, and of the great good that I had done in the English and American settlements in the suppression of crime and drunkenness, which I was most anxious to abolish from the French concession in a similar manner. Altogether, the enthusiastic way in which his letter was couched assured me of the best results.

CHAPTER XIV

Next morning after breakfast I took the letter myself to the French Consul-General, to whom I delivered it. On breaking the seal and reading its contents by the aid of his secretary and interpreter, he sat thoughtfully for a few minutes, and his demeanor showed plainly that his mind was disturbed. However, the first words he spoke were: "You had my decision yesterday, Mr. Ridgway, and you should know that it is impossible for me to alter it. There are others who have a greater claim upon me than you have and whose wishes I am bound to respect and accede to

within reason. As Mr. Hughes says, your mission may be most praiseworthy and of great benefit to mankind—of that I have not the slightest doubt. But personal feelings must not interfere with duty and therefore I exceedingly regret that it is utterly impossible for me to accede to your request. My office will not allow me to change my decision. Therefore, as I said before, you must close your premises as it is too late now to take out a license. I give you 48 hours in which to move your goods and chattels and leave the premises. Do you understand?" I answered, "yes, I fully understand." As I arose he further informed me that in default of my so doing, I would be ejected by force and my goods and chattels confiscated.

Seeing it was useless for me to prolong the interview, I moved towards the door. In doing so I was obliged to seek support from tables and chairs on my way thither; and even to this day it is a mystery to me how I reached home, for all my faculties seemed benumbed, so great was the blow. How to break the news to my dear friends the bluejackets was troubling me most of all, as I knew it might portend trouble, knowing their

determined characters. Nevertheless, the inevitable must be faced, cost what it may. Ah Mow, seeing me enter, ran to my assistance, as I staggered rather than walked to a seat. He avoided questioning me, for he most plainly saw that all was lost, but nerved himself for the worst accordingly. This being the 31st of March, there was only one day between it and the opening of my long cherished desire. Yet during the whole of that day I could not bring myself, despite several attempts to do so, to visit the warships and face the men with the sad news. So, I returned to the British Consulate and also several other prominent men in Shanghai, thinking, like the proverbial drowning man, that I would endeavor to clutch at the last straw, that something might be done, but alas! all in vain, nothing could be done, and that night I suffered more mentally than ever before or since, for sleep, of course, was out of the question. Next morning at nine o'clock my true old friends, the sailors commenced to arrive as it was the beginning of the general leave for the port watch. Even then, I could not bring myself to the point of informing them

of the bad news, and it was not until the saloon was entirely filled that I stood on the stage and nerved myself to address the men, saying that I was sorry to be the bearer of bad news, asking them to be patient with me for a while and I would relate matters to them. I then in a broken voice told them the circumstances of the case. For several minutes after I finished they one and all appeared paralyzed with surprise, as no one spoke. At last one bluejacket ascended the stage and addressing himself to me said: "Brother Ridgway, we have listened to your sad tale and there is not one amongst us but feel as sadly grieved as you are, and would do all in our power to give you relief and avoid this terrible calamity. But as you say, it is too late. Therefore, boys," addressing the men, "what shall we do?" As with one accord, they all shouted, "Damn the frog-eating Frenchmen; we will open." I said: "Boys, I do not think it advisable to do so; such strong measures would only bring on disaster and do us no good. I think the best plan would be for us to take the inevitable course and go back beneath the protecting

folds of the Union Jack." Some acquiesced, others objected, adhering to their first determination of opening in spite of opposition. They had, it seems, prepared a most beautiful and varied entertainment in honor of the opening of my establishment, which undoubtedly would have given great pleasure to those who would have witnessed it. Besides, I had prepared a grand feast, having spent over \$50 in various delicacies, all of which would now be wasted. Whilst thus conversing, we noticed two Frenchmen, gendarmes, walking backwards and forwards in front of my door, casting furtive glances inside. Suspecting their intentions, I told Ah Mow that whenever he supplied refreshment to the men, not to accept money in return, as I believed the Frenchmen were watching to see if I transacted business within my place, as they thus would have a claim against me. So I whispered to the men, "Boys, don't pay for anything you get. Promise. I have good reasons for asking this." They seemed perplexed, but observing my earnest manner, acquiesced without question. At noon I provided every man with a good dinner, which

Ah Mow at my request had especially prepared, and which was heartily partaken of by my guests. After dinner many other bluejackets came in and to these new arrivals I explained things briefly and cautioned them all not to pay for anything. However, a late comer made a present of money to Ah Mow, and I saw the transaction just too late to stop it. At the same time, the two gendarmes outside rushed in and attempted to drive every man out of the place at the point of the bayonet. But Jack was not the boy to be intimidated by a Frenchman. On the contrary, they took these two Frenchmen by the scruff of their necks and carried them out by the seat of their pants and threw them bodily into the creek, rifles included! How they ever scrambled out was a mystery, but I saw them soon afterwards in a most filthy condition, but they never again attempted to interfere. Towards nightfall, Ah Mow, in conjunction with the other servants, lighted the lamps in my house, and the former was about to climb the ladder to light the street lamp, when to the surprise of all, two more gendarmes came and snatched the ladder from

under him, using at the same time angry terms in the French language. Several of the boys who witnessed this incident rushed to his assistance, and took the lamp from him, but as the Frenchmen still held the ladder, one of the blue-jackets mounted on the back of a comrade for the purpose of hanging the lamp by the hook projecting from the wall over my door. Just as he hung it, about half a dozen gendarmes rushed upon Jack and began to use force for the purpose of extinguishing the light. This was the signal for a general onslaught. Jack already frenzied with disappointment rushed upon the foe in great numbers, there being at least 300 present by this time, whilst the French police did not number two dozen at the time, who rushed into my house and attempted to drive out Jack, where a general melee ensued. The French used their bayonets and the butt end of their rifles indiscriminately. Jack in defense rushed upon the adversary with his sheath knife and other weapons he could lay hands on. The French sergeant signalled with his whistle for fresh reinforcements, which were not long in coming, yet not before many of the

French were seen struggling in the creek, bleeding and otherwise disabled. Soon was seen the French Consul-General with the mayor and other officials dashing upon the scene, many on horseback with drawn sabers. The mayor stood in front of the rest and commanded silence in a loud and preemptory voice. But this had little effect on the British tars, whose blood was now up at seeing his wounded comrades around him ; for the two parties still continued their onslaught. Not having a sufficient number of police, the French enrolled in their cause a great many French citizens who happened to gather around to witness the scene, and these also were armed from the arsenal, and marched in order upon the bluejackets, just as the French Consul-General in a loud and sonorous tone was giving, through his interpreter, a warning to the sailors that if they persisted in opposing the gendarmes they would be fired upon with ball cartridge. We could see from our place of observation, which was the upper front window of my house, a great number of officers, marines and bluejackets approaching in haste from the Bund, from which it appears they had been sum-

moned by signals given by someone on shore, and just before the shooting commenced and whilst Jack was in the attitude of resisting the attack with a collection of miscellaneous missiles, the bugle-call sounded, which had the effect of electrifying everyone of the combatants, for as if by one impulse the fighting ceased and Jack was submissive, and in less time than it takes to tell it, there appeared upon the scene the English admiral with his staff; likewise the Captains and officers of the various warships, including American. In a loud and commanding voice he (the Admiral) called out to the men to put down their arms and stand to attention, which order was instantly obeyed. Then he and the commander of the American warship held a consultation with the French Consul-General and his staff, which lasted only about ten minutes, at the the end of which time the men of both navies had been placed in marching order and the word of command being given, they all took their course towards the Bund, the dead and wounded being carried on temporary stretchers, and quiet once more reigned supreme on the Yangking-pan creek, with the exception of groups of

civilians who had been attracted by the firing and disturbance.

CHAPTER XV

Early next morning I received a summons from the French Consul-General, who, on entering, scowled at me ominously, not even offering me a seat. Through his interpreter, he asked me why I had persisted in trying to defy his orders. When his anger had somewhat become calm I answered by saying that I regretted as much as he at what had occurred; that it was entirely without my consent or knowledge or aid that the trouble had arisen. He observed that I had commenced the trouble by selling refreshments, which charge I denied by asserting that the man whom the gendarme saw giving money to the Chinaman was really giving a gratuity; that I had given strict orders that nothing was to be sold although I supplied the men with a dinner and refreshments. But the Consul-General persisted by remarking that I had caused the street lamp to be lighted, which meant business. I also denied this charge,

saying that when my servant proceeded to do so I strictly forbade him but that one of the sailors took it upon himself to do so, and thus the trouble commenced, which I was powerless to prevent, as the men were very much aggravated by the terrible disappointment they were enduring, as they as well as myself had made great preparations for the opening of my establishment. Although I had been put to a severe financial loss over the business, yet I told the Consul-General that I would do all in my power to obviate a repetition of the previous night's occurrence by removing that day from the present premises. That gentleman fairly "jumped out his skin" at this, and excitedly commanded me to remove at once; that if I was not out of that house by nightfall he would seize my property and place me under arrest for causing the death of three if not more of his subjects. Apologizing for what had occurred, remarking that I could do no more than that, I turned to his secretary and said: "Please tell the Consul that from now on every French subject in the English or American settlements shall by my aid be treated in a similar manner that I had been treated or

subjected to by him," whereupon I walked out of the office.

That day Ah Mow and I searched for new quarters towards Hongkew. Calling upon the British Consul-General, and relating him the full incidents of the previous night, I asked his advice. He said: "Why don't you take possession of the old Oriental Hotel, which is now vacant, as Tom Dighton, the late proprietor is in goal, and his house has been denuded of all stock two days ago." Thanking him, and having obtained the name and whereabouts of the landlord of the hotel in question, I at once proceeded there, and having first inspected the premises on my way to the landlord, I paid the latter a month's rent in advance, and at once set a dozen coolies to work in cleaning, whitewashing and otherwise putting the place in order.

I then visited the English Admiral on board his flagship and on ascending the companion ladder, he met me at the quarter-deck and assumed an angry expression on seeing me. Fearing the worst, I, however, approached him and apologized for what had taken place, justifying myself

by saying that I was but the innocent cause of the fracas that had arisen, and incidentally reminded him of his promise of aid to me in the past, to all of which he listened patiently, and gradually his anger cooled down, for he said : " Mr. Ridgway, I believe you, but it is altogether a bad job. This would not have happened under the Union Jack. " He then asked me what I proposed doing, when I told him that I had already rented other premises in the English settlement, which I believe would answer my purpose just as well, on account of its large proportions, as it was large enough to accommodate a great number of men, and then added : " Perhaps, Admiral, you are not aware that all my means have become exhausted in my late unsuccessful venture, and as your men yesterday morning promised to assist me in establishing a new place in case that one should be closed, I have come to ask your permission to go among them and collect what I can for that purpose." To my astonishment and joy, he said : " All right, go and here is a sovereign to start with," at the same time calling the other officers around, each of whom gave various amounts. I then went

amongst the men and altogether collected \$78. I then boarded the other men-of-war, where I collected \$45. On the American warship I received \$105. Thus I was again "on my feet," and able to fight the battle of life, as well as King Alcohol.

On returning ashore I set some dozen coolies to work in assisting half a dozen bluejackets that I had brought with me from the flagship (another "wrecking party") to dismantle the newly-born House that Jack Built for the second time.

After providing a good supper, we held an impromptu concert within closed doors, and so passed the time merrily, so now I with truth could say that I had established a House that Jack Built within the French domain. Next afternoon when all was packed ready for cartage I commenced the wearisome task of removing the furniture and effects and other appurtenances of what would have comprised the finest place of entertainment in Shanghai; and it was not until late that night that everything was removed and the premises locked up. Ah Mow and I alone slept on the old

premises that night, the "wrecking party" having gone aboard.

Next day with good luck and by the help of the ever-faithful Ah Mow I secured tenants to occupy the old premises, in the persons of a confectioner and his family, who gave me \$50 for the improvements I had effected besides disbursing me for that month's rent. Ah Mow and I departed in the afternoon for our new establishment in Hongkew and incidentally the third House that Jack Built, although the quarters had been for many years past a vile den of King Alcohol. What had been the bar-room, being three feet narrower than my saloon in the Rest in the French Concession, I was necessitated to curtail, or what Jack would have termed "take a reef," not only the scenery but also the stage and its framework, which not only entailed great trouble and loss but to a great extent disfigured the general effect. Nevertheless, not being able to otherwise remedy the evil, we were obliged to "grin and bear it," and make the best of a bad job. It was wonderful what a few buckets of limewash could do, as the place was entirely transformed from its appear-

ance the day before. The coolies had done their work well and quickly. As it would be impossible to get the place in thorough readiness before the general leave was over, we were obliged to content ourselves by erecting a temporary stage on the ground floor; and for the same reason arranged the beds accordingly, although sad to relate we could not accommodate half the sleepers we did in the first House that Jack Built. Everyone who is acquainted with Shanghai will realise that the position of the old Oriental Hotel, although near the landing place of the Bluejackets, yet is entirely hid from view by the houses in front of it. Therefore, I was compelled, as in the Rest in Schezuen Road, to take the "boys" to it, in order to acquaint them with the locality, but which in this instance was not a difficult task as most of the men found the place easily, owing to the wrecking party who helped my removal there, from the French Concession.

CHAPTER XVI

By the 27th I contemplated having a grand opening entertainment held in my new establish-

ment in honor of the fourth House that Jack Built, when Lo! and Behold! to my bitter chagrin all the warships, with the exception of a second-class cruiser, suddenly left Shanghai. Still, I determined to carry out my intention and have an opening night of some sort, despite the fact that the majority of men aboard the second-class cruiser was non-temperance; so with this end in view I secured a quantity of buntings, flags, etc. for decoration purposes, and several sailors assisted me in the task.

Yet, when General Leave took place, there were only about 100 bluejackets took part in the affair. Nevertheless, four days later, at the close of the leave, I, on settling my accounts found myself with some four hundred dollars to the good.

Rumours now became current through the settlement that war was imminent between France and China on account of the usurpation by the former of large tracts of territory in Cochin-China which was then under the protection of China.

Shortly afterwards, in order to prevent a repetition of the foul and inhuman bombardment

that was enacted at Foochow, the Viceroy ordered the blockade to be constructed at Woosung, which was at once put into effect, thus preventing not only warships but also vessels of light draught to proceed up the river. Therefore, Shanghai was thrown into a state of panic and business became paralyzed. As it was uncertain when the blockade would be raised, I considered it unwise to continue under the circumstances on the present premises, which were very expensive; Ah Mow suggested that we rent a smaller house which was then vacant in Broadway, opposite Boone Road, the rent being only \$15 per month. We also rented three smaller Chinese houses at the foot of Woosung Road, the rent of each being \$5. These I intended to use as repositories for the great abundance of furniture and other effects for which the house in Broadway was ineffectual.

Therefore, on the 1st of July we vacated the 4th House that Jack Built on Woosung Road, and held a grand opening night at the Coffee Shop on Broadway.

Of course we did not expect to do a vast amount of business, as our customers would con-

sist entirely of civilians, as no sailors now could visit the city, but to our surprise we found it all we could manage to supply the great number of guests. The self-acting organ was suitably placed, and the beautiful strains from which not only gave pleasure to the guests but also aided very much in attracting the people and causing them to enter. Small tables were fixed to the walls at which four could be seated ; altogether some two dozen could be comfortably accommodated at one time. The walls were hung with pictures. Ah Mow exercised great tact and ingenuity, and cleanliness reigned supreme.

CHAPTER XVII

Thus time passed on until about the middle of August. One evening, whilst I was partaking of tea, a man whom I had known in Tientsin named Yeoman, employed as constable for the British Consulate, came into my new saloon. Saluting me he said, " Ridgway, having heard of your success in the Sailors' Rest business, I have come down to Shanghai on purpose to join you in the good work if you will have me. Like you, I

have been a total abstainer all my life. I have yet a thousand dollars, five hundred of which I will put down and also pay half the price for the furniture and other effects. There is a place over the way, that old machine works, which I think will suit our purpose, but is at present in a dilapidated state. I have spoken to the owner, and he is willing to do all the repairs that is necessary, on condition that we pay three months' rent in advance which is forty dollars a month, and he would have it ready in three weeks.

I sent Ah Mow for another cup of tea. Then I said, I have listened to your proposal and am quite agreeable. Then raising our cups we drank to the prosperity of our new venture.

After further conversation he invited me to take breakfast with him and his wife next morning at his house on the corner of Chapeo and Tieng Dong Road where I received a hearty welcome from both.

As we sat at table I was very much interested with Mrs. Yeoman. She appeared to be a woman endowed with great sagacity and common sense, and was very enthusiastic in the cause of temper-

ance. She praised me very much for the efforts which I had made in order to rescue men, of which she had often heard and read, and thanked God that she was now about to join me in the good and noble work, and sincerely hoped that He would bless us in our efforts. I therefore considered myself fortunate in obtaining such a powerful ally for the cause.

After breakfast we drew up an agreement, which was mutually agreed to.

Learning that the blockade at the mouth of the river would be raised in a few days, which had been effected by the Chinese Government on account of the treacherous barbarity of the French who only a few weeks previously had not only sunk the Chinese fleet in the harbour of Foochow without the least warning but shot the sailors whilst struggling in their endeavour to reach the shore.

Therefore, in order to get the place in readiness would tax our efforts to the uttermost, we at once ordered a large and attractive sign board which could be read half a mile distant. We also ordered scores of posters to be placed in conspicu-

ous parts of the town, and also thousand of circulars and business cards to be distributed on board of ships on their arrival in the river.

On the morning of the 27th the blockade was raised, and before nightfall there were over a hundred vessels in the river. Amongst which, were some twenty warships of different nationalities. As soon as they were made fast my partner and I boarded those of the English and American. I received a hearty welcome by both the officers and crews. I introduced Mr. Yeoman to them. To many he was already known, as he had served in the American navy several years previously and I was congratulated by many in having procured so good a partner as they believed I needed someone to assist me in the arduous work. I informed them of my new venture and asked for volunteers to help me to get our place in readiness for the general leave which would begin in three days. Having obtained a special leave for about a dozen men, I asked the Captain for the loan of flags, penants and other articles for decorating, which request he kindly granted.

Next morning, I saw a dozen jolly tars enter,

both English and American, and soon they were vieing, with each other in decorating the house both inside and out with bunting, flowers, ribbons, colored lanterns and evergreens in a manner known only to Jack, whilst others were erecting the stage and adjusting the scenery, who putting together over three hundred beds, and otherwise making ready the sixth House that Jack Built into such a place of entertainment that had never been seen in Shanghai or any port of Asia before.

By the end of the month everything was ready or "shipshape" as the sailors term it.

CHAPTER XXIV

About two o'clock on the 1st of September 1884, I heard that well known and to me most welcome of sounds, the tramp of many feet and hilarious conversation and merriment, broken now and again by exclamations of joy and pleasure.

Opening the front door, I saw before me a sight that would even fill a publican's heart with ecstasy and happiness, for, look which way I would, the streets were thronged to their full extent with sailors of different nationalities frolick-

ing, jumping, running hither and thither, shouting and joking, seeming like so many school boys at the closing time, all bent towards one point and that point The House That Jack Built.

As they entered, they exclaimed in one voice, "Ridgway, you're a brick."

When all had entered they gathered around the tables, the stage, shelves or anything that could hold a cup and saucer, with coffee or tea as each preferred.

When all had been supplied the senior officer of the fleet stood in front of the stage and addressed the men in a short but appropriate speech. Telling them that they ought to consider themselves very fortunate in the possession of friends in Mr. Ridgway and Mr. and Mrs. Yeoman, in providing such a place of entertainment, and hoping and trusting that they would appreciate their kindness as they deserve.

Then raising their cups, they gave forth such a rousing three cheers and a "tiger" that actually shook the very house and made the pictures and ornaments move as an earthquake would.

When all had drank the toast they separated

in different directions in exploring the house from basement to attic.

As it would weary my readers were I to give you in details the splendid and well rendered items of that night's concert, but suffice it to say that owing to the blockade the men had not time to compose a drama, but in place of which they got up and performed a first class negro-minstrel party, also, sentimental and comic speeches; and altogether made up a good and very enjoyable night's entertainment. It was not until an hour after midnight that lights were extinguished.

There were nearly four hundred sober and happy sons of Neptune in the fond embrace of good King Morpheus, beneath the safe shelter of the House That Jack Built.

CHAPTER XXV

Now dear readers, I will bring this most eventful history to a close. I was at the very zenith of my ambition having established no less than six Sailors' Rests in Shanghai during the last five years in order to counteract the evils of strong

drink with no one to help me except Ah Mow who was seventy years of age and a long suffering victim of that terrible complaint, rheumatism, and, like his father, who was still living, a great opium smoker. Whenever the pain became unbearable, Ah Mow would ask me permission to return to his room, where he would indulge in his favorite drug, and after an hour's sleep would return to his duties, and so invigorated that he appeared to be imbued with more than his usual strength. Which goes to prove that opium is not so terrible a thing as it is pointed. Would a drunkard, under the same condition be so strengthened and invigorated after taking a strong drink of whisky? I think not.

Yes, here I was in the height of my ambition, hopeful of shortly being enabled to close every mantrap or liquor saloon in both the English and American settlements as we did in 1879.

Oh! what a different realization was in store for me.

On the evening of the 3rd, whilst the starboard watch were partaking of supper, I saw Mrs. Yeoman acting in a very strange and unseem-

ing manner towards some sailors, who were not members of the Good Templar's Order. At first, I thought that she was trying to persuade them to join. She then commenced by putting her arms around their necks and preventing them from enjoying their suppers. At a word from her husband she went about her duties.

Later, having occasion to go into the kitchen, I beheld with dismay and disgust my partner's wife, with a bottle in one hand and in the act of pouring liquor into a glass and handing it to one of three sailors. Seeing by her demeanour that she was drunk, I said, "Mrs. Yeoman what is the meaning of this? Do you realize what you are doing?" She replied in a thick voice, "Mind your own d—m business."

"I will call your husband," I said, "you shameless woman." Whereupon she flew at me in a towering rage and struck me in the face with her fist; the diamond in her ring pieced the skin and caused the blood to flow copiously. I grabbed hold of her in order to remonstrate, when her husband appeared and said, "Leave her her to me Ridgway. I'll settle her hash." He then seized

hold of her, and actually hurried her to the back door. Calling a cab, he accompanied her home and after locking her in her room he returned.

With the assistance of Ah Mow, I bathed the wound and then resumed my duties as though nothing had happened.

During the meal and afterwards, I could see by the sympathetic glances of my guests at me, and the whispering amongst themselves, that my fate was sealed. Whilst preparing for the coming concert many of them whispered to me, saying, "Ridgway, why did you take her in? We are all sorry for you."

During the rest of the night, there seemed to be a heavy gloom pervading the whole of the house. I tried to put on as pleasant a face as possible, and felt a great relief when the curtain fell at the termination of the concert.

When all my guests had retired and the lights in the saloon extinguished, Mr. Yeoman asked Ah Mow to bring coffee and cakes. When he had laid them on the table, as Ah Mow appeared fatigued and suffering with his complaint, I

therefore dismissed him for the night saying that I would keep watch.

After a few minutes, Mr. Yeoman addressed me in a voice of dejection and humiliation as follows.

“Brother Ridgway, I am extremely sorry that I did not inform you of my wife’s terrible failure at first. I am also sorry for what has occurred and I hope and trust and promise it shall not happen again.”

I asked him how long she had been addicted to the habit. “About four years,” he replied. “It was at Tientsin. She always took wine at the Holy Sacrament, which, created an appetite, that developed into a liking for a stronger liquor.” “Yes,” I replied, “it is a pity they do not substitute other than intoxicating wine at the Lord’s supper, as I am fully convinced that over two-thirds of the drunkards of to-day can point back to that ceremonial as the starting point of their downward course, but as Dean Smith told me a few weeks ago that it was absolutely essential to partake of that wine in order to become a true Christian.

My partner then continuing said, “We had

been threatened with dismissal several times in Tientsin on account of my wife's failure, and the last time she insulted one of the Consulate's guests to such an extent that he could endure it no longer. I thought that this place and the excitement would help to wean her from the habit."

Taking from my pocket a small pocket book I opened it and turned page after page disclosing to him two thousand, four hundred and forty-five signatures, telling him that if he wished to verify my statement he would find only twelve amongst them were womens'. I had more trouble to keep those twelve women true to their pledge than all the men whose names were there inscribed. No, my dear friend and Brother, when once a woman falls, she not only sinks lower and lower in the whirlpool of intemperance, but tends like our first parent, to draw all those, near and dear to her to the abyss of perdition with her, I am looked upon as a model of strict temperance principles, in fact, I shall be ashamed to look the men in the face. Believe me, Brother, I am sincerely sorry for you. You are a good man and deserve a better fate. I have been striving for the past nine

years in Shanghai, sparing neither time, money, nor labour for the good of my fellow men. After what has occurred, what must they think in the city and on board the ships, it would be misconstrued. No, I cannot see my way in allowing this thing to pass. I stand disgraced in the cause of temperance. I bitterly regret at parting from you, but under the circumstances I can see no other course to take." "Suppose I keep her away or divorce her," he suggested. "No," I replied, "I will not be the means of separating husband and wife." He seemed very much dejected and begged me to postpone my decision for a week, which I granted.

A few days later, I became engaged at my trade as carpenter to Mr. Kingsmill, to superintend the building of a row of houses facing the race course.

Therefore I came to a final settlement with Mr. Yeoman, and procured a temperance man whom I knew to be a hard worker in the cause to fill my place as partner, and when all had been settled I found myself to be the possessor of six hundred dollars; therefore I was deficient of fourteen hundred dollars since my first opening in

December 1879. Yet, I do not for a moment regret had it been thrice that amount. For, with the knowledge it had been the means with the help of God in reclaiming thousands of my fellow creatures from that most terrible of all fates, a drunkard's doom. Although I had never drunk myself, yet, the terrible scenes I had witnessed during my former career makes the loss of money appear but a trifle.

CONCLUSION.

And now dear reader, I will bring this most eventful, authentic and I trust interesting narrative to a close.

Doubtless, many will consider me as very foolish or fanatical to venture upon so vast an undertaking single handed with only a capital of two thousand dollars, my only excuse being my life-long hatred of that vile enemy of mankind, alcohol, from which I have suffered so much, although I never knew the taste of any kind of that death dealing compound.

For the entire suppression of drunkenness by moral suasion, I have more than proved that it is a complete failure as it is nearly a hundred years since the seven working men at Preston England framed the first teetotal pledge. Since which, millions in different parts of the world and in different forms have followed the same principles, but alas, all have failed in their object, as I am sure there is more drunkardness to-day in accordance with the population and the terrible results arising therefrom is greater than ever.

No, there are but two ways I am convinced by which the ardent desire of the lover of total abstinence and the promise made to mankind some two thousand years ago of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Man" can be fulfilled and realized. One is, the entire suppression of the manufacture and the sale of intoxicating liquors by Government enactment, and the other is, the discontinuance of wine, either intoxicating or otherwise at the Holy Sacrament, then, and not till then can "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Man" reign supreme.

THE END.

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