

He had been invited to a mess dinner, and though he would rather have stayed away, Jarvis, with whom he had formed a certain friendship, rising largely out of their mutual reverence for Brock, had advised him that it would seem strange and cause talk were he to absent himself. "For the truth is, Captain Etherington," he added, "Captain Carey has just come to town, and is speaking in a strange way of you, and your absence from a dinner when he is present, might be misconstrued by those who do not know you."

Etherington's pride was roused at this with indignation, and wonder at the cause of Carey's intense bitterness, and he determined to be present, though an unpleasant feeling that the other meant mischief occupied his mind.

Etherington arrived in company with Jarvis and Robinson, and when the dinner was served, quite a number sat down. He was surprised to find that Carey, by some unfortunate accident, was his vis-a-vis.

The latter did not speak to him, and Etherington noticed that he looked careworn, and drank much, and seemed even more quarrelsome and insulting in his manner, than formerly. He saw also from the first, that, for some reason, Carey was determined to be nasty to himself, as he began to throw out innuendoes, which while addressed to others were, he knew, levelled at him. Etherington determined, if possible, to avoid any open encounter, on account of his feelings for Monmouth, whom he regarded as the young man's uncle; so he took no notice of Carey's occasional jibes and sneers, and addressed his conversation to some