

232 NED FORTESCUE ; OR, ROUGHING IT THROUGH LIFE.

service ; but if otherwise, I must retire on half-pay, and endeavor, metaphorically of course, to smoke the calumet of peace beneath the shade of my own fig tree.

And now having brought back the hero of our story after an absence of a quarter of a century to the pretty little village where we first met, we will leave him to enjoy his *otium cum dignitate* ; and the author will feel satisfied if he has succeeded in enabling the reader to wile away a few hours pleasantly by the perusal of the many incidents in the eventful career of Ned Fortescue while roughing it through life.

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