HENRY HOWARD. CHAPTER XX.

SOMETHING VERY RIDICULOUS. What, I !- I love !- I sue !- I seek a wife !

For some months after the above conversation, Henry's visits at Weston were very frequent; and he ance and friendship only would account for. shortly discovered that when Rachel was present, his remarks were chiefly addressed to her; and that in different excursions with the Fords, his arm was alenced if any thing occurred to withdraw her from his I have done so without acquainting and consulting you. side. This went on for some time before he clearly however, who was better acquainted with these matters than her cousin, thought it right at length to give and convinced him, that noless he entertained serious me, even if I did propose." thoughts of proposing to Rachel for his wife, he was and judgment, but in such a way as to shew Henry different question. And now let me speak seriously; of attending religious meetings, that he entirely negthat he had no alternative but to come at once to some for it is a very serious matter. In the first place, I lected his business, and ruined his family—a man so

in a great degree essential to his happiness. I know above us who are actively engaged in trade, and pronot how it is, he thought within himself; Thave known bably might wish that his daughter should marry some for he would have grumbled at the sermon preached on either return my love, or for the future we must part. opinions; observe, I wish to say nothing in disparage- worldly duties to perform according to the best of his as he should wish those of his wife to be. She had have reason to fear that she entertains some very er- gations of the Christian calling. but just escaped falling into infidelity; and although roneous opinions with regard to the Church; and if And is it not so in the navy? Is a man less couhe believed her doubts as to the truth of Christianity such be the case, it is impossible there could be any rageous because he fights taking God for his shield? were now past, and that she was really anxious to live real happiness between you, should you marry. I Is he necessarily a coward in an engagement, because as a consistent member of the Church, still there was ought, perhaps, to say that, for the last few months, he has entered it with prayer, and not with cursing? enough in her late conduct to make Henry pause her expressions betray a considerable change in her Does he fight his foe less resolutely, because he has determination, he curtailed very much his visits to Wes- decided; and if so, you cannot be too careful in what devil? Is he the more apt to flinch from the prospect ton, although he did not entirely discontinue them; you do.' and when there, his attentions to her were rare and constrained, apparently rather the result of necessity advice, which he promised to follow; at the same time death? Is he more likely to quail at the storagy wind than of inclination.

it. She feared she had offended him by some foolish struction from Mr. Milles, and were in regular atten- curity in the rock of ages? And yet we know that remark, or in some other way; but yet Henry was not dance at the vicarage. a person to take offence at trifles. Indeed she had frequently observed him pass over real injuries, and in vicar seldom mentions such matters; it looks well." a few hours after apparently forget that he had at all

whether she had really done any thing to annoy him. unprejudiced opinion of Rachel's qualities, but I think This her cousin advised her not to do; saying, that you will admit that she is a very superior girl, well her ideas of his change in conduct were either fanciful, educated, and, as far as you can judge, highly princior if real, he had doubtlessly good and suffcient rea- pled." son for the course he was taking.

but thought it better to follow it so far as to refrain describe. And if her opinions in Church matters are from seeking any explanation from Henry. In conse- correct, there is no girl whom I would prefer seeing quence of this, some time clapsed, during which a cool- your wife. But depend upon it, Henry, that whatever ness gradually arose between them. When Henry the world at large may think about it, there is very came to Weston, his conversation was chiefly addressed little probability of real happiness between married to Charles, who was now deeply engaged in studying persons of different religious persuasions. Each wishes the works of some of our best English divines; and to go to his or her place of worship; there are perpetwhen he did approach Rachel for the purpose of ad- ual differences of opinion as to the way in which the dressing her, which was seldom, his remarks were such, children shall be educated; and a hundred other things that any thing like conversation was out of the ques- of a like nature. Besides, just picture to yourself the tion; -and yet, in spite of all his resolutions, and his deep sorrow you, as a Churchman, must always expedetermination not to see her excellence, Henry's fears rience, if your wife, the chief object of your affections gradually subsided; and whether from wishes or con- on earth, is living in schism. I can scarcely conceive victions, he certainly began to think that she was as a greater trial than such a thing as this." high principled as she was amiable. It becomes us to "Well," said Henry, "I will only say, that I shall civil and attentive to Rachel. His renewed attentions | them over." at first, naturally enough, she received very coldly, but afterwards, as was also natural, more kindly. In fact, duced. to make a long story short, they were falling-for I suppose it is a fall-in love. The effects of this became shortly apparent to Millicent Bradwell. Henry was low-spirited and absent, and was perpetually finding out some excuse or other for walking up to the Hall. would tell Bradwell; but when the opportunity came | And yet wherein consist the absurdity and the impos

Hall every day, and I have caught him once or twice nevertheless, possessed its seven thousand who have writing verses in the counting-house. Very good joke, not bowed the knee to Baal; who have been enabled, indeed; Henry in love, how very ridiculous!" "You did not think so once," observed his wife,

with a smile. "No," he said, "I was young and foolish then .-

he must not steal a march upon his godfather." Having made this resolution, on the following mornoften up at Weston with the Fords now."

with the exception of a short period, as we have seen. darkness into marvellous light. There was nothing, therefore, very extraordinary in It has appeared to me that the situation in the mi-Henry's visits to Weston; on the present occasion, nistry which I should the most dislike to fill, would however, Bradwell's remark raised a blush in Henry's be that of a chaplain in the navy; but this may be face, and he hesitated a little, while he admitted that an unwarranted prejudice. It certainly may not afford he had been there of late rather frequently.

the case?"

Henry admitted that it was.

tinge, (do not let the reader misunderstand me-it was hold converse, are not many of the clergy, in country not an angry tinger) while he said, that Weston was a districts especially, compelled with reluctance to advery pleasant house; Mr. and Mrs. Ford were very mit the fact; for they are too often appointed to situkind; and he had latterly been often engaged in very ations, which they are necessitated to fill, where the interesting conversation with Charles.

he therefore, after a moment's consideration, replied, and then set about our work, in faith that if we be not

"Yes, with Rachel also." "Come, then," said Bradwell, "you must forgive faint not. me, Henry, for probing a little deeply into this matter, I have often heard naval chaplains declare that they for which the great love I bear you must be my excuse. have uniformly met with the utmost respect to their

Ford has been the attraction at Weston?" the truth in all cases, and especially to you; I will

are engaged to her?"

ways offered to her, and great disappointment experi- rived at that; I have not proposed, nor indeed should saw to what his attentions were tending. Miss Croft, I fancy you have gone a good long way, as the phrase grows lax in the performance of his worldly duties. is, without consulting me."

Rachel perceived at once the alteration in Henry's | Charles Ford, and stating that both he and his sister | both sure and stedfast;" or that he will be dashed conduct; but had no idea as to the cause that produced were now, and had for some time been, receiving in- against the rock, because he has found everlasting se-

"This," said Bradwell, "I was not aware of, as the other, cowardice and religion are allied.

"I know," continued Henry, "that love is said to be blind, and that, under existing circumstances, I am She resolved to speak to him on the subject, and ask perhaps not the best person in the world to give an

"Yes," answered Bradwell, "I must admit that, Rachel was not altogether satisfied with this advice, in these respects, the object of your choice is what you

say, that these convictions were founded on good and feel much obliged by your calling on the Vicar, and sufficient grounds. He observed that she was walking consulting him on these matters; and I promise, that along hand in hand with her brother, to a full assu- what you and he decide upon as the proper course for rance of Catholic truth; and that Mr. Milles had now me, I will follow. Whatever my wishes are, I feel that admitted her to the holy Communion, a matter which I owe this duty to my godfather and my priest, and Cash, they feel confident their prices will rule as low weighed much with him, as he knew the vicar was very I am willing to pay it .- And now let us turn to anoparticular in such things. All this had its effect, and ther matter, on which there is less prospect of our difin consequence, his diurnal visits to Weston were re- fering in opinion—the new church. Mr. Solid has commenced, and he again took opportunities of being sent the building-plans; so, if you please, we will look

To this Bradwell assented; and the plans were pro-

THE CHRISTIAN IN THE NAVY. (From the Church of England Magazine.)

Religion in the navy! Vital godliness on board ship! She saw how it was long before her husband did; but The supposition is absurd—the existence of such a not feeling quite sure upon the matter, did not like to thing impossible. Consider the usual recklessness of raise unnecessary suspicions. In a quiet way, however, our seamen; the incalculable injury they have done she used to have her sly remarks at Henry, and told to the Christian cause in other lands by their ungodhim occasionally that he looked very pale, and had a liness. Visit our sea-ports: witness a ship paid off. great deal of business at Weston, &c. Henry blushed Observe the licentious misuse of money; the triumph usually, but said nothing. He did not like to confess; of vice; the hard-gained earnings of months, or even for besides his uncertainty as to the state of Rachel's years, squandered in a very few days or hours. How affections, he felt that it was by no means improbable can we look, then, for religion or godliness among men that Mr. and Mrs. Ford would place an insurmountable of such habits? (Of course these remarks do not apbarrier to their union. Once or twice he thought he ply to the officers, nor to any class indiscriminately.) of doing so, he felt alarmed and shy, and so kept his sibility that religion and vital godliness should be At length, when his visits were become a mat- found in the navy? Proofs innumerable may be atter of daily occurrence, Bradwell's eyes opened, and he tested of the bravest and most honoured of those who began to think that it was possible that Henry might have fought their country's battles, who have been entertain feelings somewhat similar to such as had pos- eminent for true piety, who have uniformly conducted sessed him some twenty or thirty years ago. With themselves, even in an atmosphere confessedly little these views his wife concurred, and explained what calculated to foster and cherish Christian feeling and principles, in a manner such as becometh the gospel "It is very extraordinary," he remarked, "that I of Christ. Bad as the state of our navy once wasdid not observe this before; be certainly does go to the and it is to be feared it is bad enough still-it has, boldly and unflinchingly, to confront vice, to resist temptation, and to set before others an example of beautiful consistency. And this among all ranks in the service, from a Gambier to the lowest seaman in Well, well, he is young now; but I'll look after him; the fleet. Gambier-the name ever must be regarded as one of the poblest in Britain's peerage. Gambier -the foremost to fight the battles of his country, the ing, at breakfast, he began: "Henry, you are very foremost to fight the battles of his Lord. Long, long will that name be had in remembrance—and deser-Henry had been in the habit of going up frequently vedly-in our navy; probably longer still by those to Weston from the time that the Fords went there, who, through his instrumentality, were brought out of

so many comforts as a snug rectory; but it may, and "Rather frequently," repeated Bradwell, with a possibly will, afford many more opportunities for usesmile. "I don't know what you call rather frequently, fulness. And if a man is really devoted to his work, but I believe you have been there every day for the and has conscientiously embarked in his Master's last month. I call that very frequently. Eh, is such cause, for the setting forth of his glory and the good of his fellow-creatures, a naval appointment may be by no means ineligible. A seaman's soul is surely as "Then, I suppose," said Bradwell, "you have some attraction there?" as the salvation of a squire. If a naval chaplain finds Henry's countenance assumed a somewhat darker few congenial souls with whom he could delight to society is of a character with which no right feeling "Perhaps," added Bradwell slily, "with Rachel man would for a moment have a desire to mingle. The grand point is to follow the leadings of God's Henry saw there was nothing for it but to confess; providence, so far as we think we can discover them,

weary in well-doing, we shall in due season reap if we

I suppose I may infer from your manner that Rachel ministerial office, as well as to themselves personally; that they have rarely witnessed, in their immediate "Yes," said Henry; "it is right that I should speak | presence, any thing gross or revolting; that, often in conversations with seamen, they have discovered a retherefore frankly admit that I have a very great regard | ligious tone of feeling on which they had little calcufor Rachel, and that my feelings towards her are of a lated; and that they could number many with whom warmer and more tender nature than our long acquaint- -though in widely different spheres of life-they could take sweet counsel together, and whom they "Am I to understand," asked Bradwell, "that you trust at the last to meet in that sure and certain haven, when the din of war will be heard no more, and "No," said Charles smiling, "I have not quite ar- the raging of the tempest shall have sunk into a calm quietness and assurance for ever.

There is a very common notion in the world, that, "Perhaps not," replied Bradwell, with a smile, "but the moment a man becomes seriously religious, he It is very true such instances may be adduced in vast "Well," said Henry, "I fear I must admit that I numbers, but they will not bear the scrutiny of strict him a hint, which at once opened his eyes to the truth, have; and yet I am not sure that Rachel would accept investigation. It will be found that erroneous views of religion and of human responsibility have been the "That you will propose," observed Bradwell, "I do cause of this; and that to the individual's weakness, acting dishonourably in continuing his visits any longer. not doubt, nor do I feel much doubt as to Rachel's ac- and not to religious principles, his inconsistency is to Miss Croft's remarks were made with great delicacy cepting you; but what Mr. Ford may say to it, is a be attributed. I have known a man, indeed, so fond FASHIONABLE TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT, decision. It was a subject not to be treated lightly; think it your duty to ascertain what Mr. Ford thinks fond of hunting after popular preachers, that the saband he resolved to postpone any further visits at Wes- of your pretensions for his daughter. He is living in bath domestic arrangements of his family never occuton until he had made up his mind as to what he would a more expensive way than you can possibly afford, pied his thoughts. He would order his carriage to and perhaps would not like that Rachel should be de- one church and then to another, without ever recol-Rachel, he could not help confessing to himself, had prived of any of those comforts and luxuries she en- lecting that his coachman or footman might, while he almost insensibly gained his affections, and had become joys at home. Besides this, I fancy he holds his head was spending the time in seeking to satisfy his itching her for many years, and yet until lately have never one who would give her what by the world is esteemed Mars hill, be worse than wasting that time in the next entertained a wish to cultivate any feelings beyond a more acknowledged position than you could give her. wine-vaults or pot-shop. This, however, is not relithose of friendship towards her; but now the case is But beyond all this, and far more important, I would gion. The religious man lives above the world; but altered, friendship is out of the question, -she must have you be quite sure as to Rachel Ford's religious he recollects that he lives in the world, that he has And if she did return his love, was there no obstacle ment of them, beyond what I really think my duty to energies, and that the very fact of the non-performto their union? Yes; he could not but fear that you obliges me to say. From conversations which, at ance of these is an incontrovertible evidence that he Rachel's principles were by no means so firmly fixed different times, she has held with Mrs. Bradwell, I has as yet learned nothing effectually of the true obli-

before he took any decisive step. Acting upon this opinions; but still, I should fear that her mind is un- been warring against the world and the flesh and the of death, because he has been accustomed to meditate Henry thanked Bradwell very kindly for his paternal on His almighty power who overcame the sharpness of nentjoning to him the conversations he had held with and tempest, because he has "an anchor of the soul there is a very prevalent notion that, some how or

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Cobourg, 15th April, 1844.

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Toronto, April, 1844.

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262-tf July 14, 1842. MR. HOPPNER MEYER, ARTIST, HAS REMOVED TO 140, KING STREET,

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July 5, 1843.

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