

would have made but little difference to Lord Dalton had his colonel been anything else; as it was his custom to exchange upon the least appearance of difficulty. In this way he had quitted the lancers for the hussars, the hussars for the dragoons, and ultimately the dragoons for the Blues. He cared little about the particular corps, so long as he saw his name in the *Army List*, and was not called upon to perform military duty when he wanted to do something else!

With leisure, then, on his hands, he thought it well to occupy some of it by seeing how affairs went on at Maldon Priory; and being about—as he said—to invite “half the county” to his place, it came into his head to take Sir Roger Maldon’s invitation himself. Therefore, one fine morning, just as the Baronet was helping Marie to her saddle, and De Lisle tenderly and assiduously performing a like office for Blanche, his Lordship trotted along the Priory