

...the Artillery, as far as
...up our 1 ft. And what is that
...lata people coming from behind
...my 1st, pr badly, wa the
...my yeaght is bad, I cannot
...at that I take.
...I wish some body would explain
...what they are going to do, I do so love
...w' said the excited girl.
...thinking it a pity so much military
...All be thrown away, I was in
...taking a advantage of my official
...frash to the young lady with a
...of the pre-cedings, when, turn
...I, in the old gentleman
...at Belmont, of whom
...at my father's house, but of
...very little, except that he was
...with his only daughter.
...any service to you, Col. n. 1?
...Probably you have forgotten Digby
...whist papa was occupied in shaking
...rethly expressing his delight at our
...recognition and overwhelming me
...inquiries about Sir Peregrine, whom he
...had probably seen long since his untidful
...I had time to look at the daughter,
...charming voice had first attracted my
...Heavens! what a beautiful girl
...Far be it from me, like Olivia, to
...upon an inventory of her charms—
...from two lips, indifferent red, &c.—but she
...the good fortune to possess those violet
...with long black eyelashes, that, with
...dark hair and a fair complexion, have
...made a fool of many a wise man since the
...days of King Solomon. Ere I was present
...her I had seen at a glance that she was
...a *quinte* and *bien chausee*, those two
...essentials in a lady's dress; and as she
...turned her graceful head towards me, and
...received papa's introduction with her own
...sweet smile, I thought I should wish no bet-
...ter amusement than to act cicerone to this
...fascinating Miss Belmont during the whole
...of the coming performances.
...But the dark massive columns have de-
...poyed out me, and far as the eye can
...reach, exceeds a belt of red and white, flank-
...ed by dark Rifles and grim batteries of
...artillery; while the lightsome pennons of the
...Lancers come whirling rapidly from the
...east. All eyes are directed towards Hyde
...Park Corner, and the crowd are mute with
...expectation, for a hoarse and indistinct com-
...mand, repeated in the front, is followed by
...a flash of steel along the whole line, as a
...word and bayonets leap into the air, and
...the Regals "shoulder arms," preparatory
...to receiving, with due respect, the in-
...structions of the officer who is to inspect them. A
...brilliant and glittering staff winds through
...the iron gates near Aspley House, and
...sweeping rapidly into the Park, advances
...almost to where we are standing, as if ex-
...pressly to give Miss Belmont an uninter-
...rupted view of the Iron Duke, whom she adores
...with lady-like devotion. The line opens its
...ranks, and "presents arms;" the Command-
...ing officer turns the salute, and though he
...bears a venerable head, white with the
...daws of eighty winters, the frame below is
...strong and hardy, almost as in the prime of
...life, the heart within game and dauntless as
...ever. The populace cheer, the band plays
...and save the Queen," and the tears sparkle
...in Miss Belmont's eyes.
...How well the old Duke is looking," says
...every one, with an affectionate emphasis on
...the adjective. And then the habits,
...proud of their better information, instruct
...their country cousins in the identity of the
...different nobilities. "That's Prince
...George; and that's the Duke of Hessians;
...and here comes Earl Sabre tache—how well
...he looks, and there goes one of the Mar-
...quis other leg? as the finest horseman in
...England sways his mutilated figure to every
...corner of the highly broke chair he be-
...sides. And so they run over the whole
...with a remark for each—delighted be-
...cause they are a nod of recognition should
...reach them from any individual of that bril-
...liant cortege.
...All this time the review is going on, and I
...have the pleasant task of explaining to Miss

...a command change, by the whole
...line, which looks as if it would sweep general
...officers, staff, police, spicadors, ladies, and
...into Park Lane. Abstaining, however,
...from so general a scrimmage, they halt and
...retire in admirable order, covered by cavalry
...and artillery, and throwing out clouds of
...skirmishers, till they have reached the same
...ground and taken up the same positions with
...which the review commenced.
...And now, Miss Belmont, I explain
...to my attentive companion, 'the points
...are being placed, and the regiments will march
...past.
...Oh, how delightful! says the fair enthu-
...siast. And will your company march past,
...Captain Grand? and shall we hear the
...band? Papa, now you will see the Guards
...quite close.
...And quite close the imposing columns
...came, and many an adjutant's heart leapt
...for joy as company after company, Guards,
...Rifles, and Infantry of the line, moved stead-
...ly past the saluting point exact as a machine
...regulated by mechanism, level as a wall of
...brick. There always appears to me some-
...thing awful in the uncompromising, unwa-
...vering advance of a large body of disciplined
...men. It is his resolute, unflinching bearing,
...his steady demeanor, totally unshaken by
...extraneous circumstances—in a word, it is
...the magic power of discipline that gives the
...soldier his moral advantage over all the head-
...long gallantry and numerical superiority of
...untrained thousands. And this steadfast re-
...liance on himself, his officers, and his com-
...rades, is only to be acquired by constant
...martial practice in the field—practice that
...must often be repeated on the drill ground
...before it can be brought into play under the
...fire of an enemy. This is the secret of all
...the marchings and counter marchings, so
...often sneered at by the ignorant of military
...affairs. This is the object of the frequent
...parades and countless manoeuvres that to the
...unfiling appear so unnecessary to harass
...the soldier. And all this must be brought to
...a very high state of perfection before such a
...march past can be witnessed, as delighted
...the unpractised eyes of pretty Miss Belmont,
...and called forth an approving sentence from
...the Duke's himself.
...And now, much to my annoyance, the
...movements of the day are come to a conclu-
...sion. The line, once more formed, advances
...in open order to the music of the three finest
...bands in the service, and again 'present
...arms,' as a sort of farewell to the illustrious
...hero. A few words of approbation addressed
...by him to the respective colonels are soon
...made known to the officers and privates of
...the different troops and companies; and I am
...compelled to bid Miss Belmont farewell, not,
...however, before I have discovered her where-
...abouts in London; and collecting my dis-
...persed party together, I march them back to-
...wards the barracks under the wing of the
...battalion to which they belong.

CHAPTER VIII.

GOOD RESOLUTIONS.

As I willingly exchanged the oppressive
...confinement of a uniform for the cooler hab-
...illiments usually worn in London during the
...summer, I found upon my table, amongst a
...whole heap of unanswered letters, unpaid
...bills, gloves, cigars, and all the miscellaneous
...litter of a bachelor's abode, a small rose-tinted
...note, written in the palest ink, indited by
...the white hand of Mrs. Man-trap.
...Confound the woman!—what can she
...mean by all these dashes? I thought,
...as I opened and read the following emphatic
...missive:—
...—STREET, Saturday.
...DEAR CAPTAIN GRAND.—If not too much
...fatigued by your MILITARY DUTIES, shall you
...be at Lady Cockle's to-day. I am MOST
...ANXIOUS to see you, and shall go EARLY. If
...you are not here in time for me to take you
...down, I can, at all events, bring you back.
...I shall be enchanted to hear ALL the partic-
...ulars of the review.—Yours ever,
...MARGERY MAN-TRAP.
...This was a fair specimen of Mrs. Man-trap's
...usual style of correspondence, but why she
...should think that she rendered her sentences

...off to the satisfaction of every one can-
...ced, and even Mrs. Man-trap, whom I
...discover sitting in a striking attitude
...and a commanding position, allowed that it
...was all very pretty and well done. As I
...bowed my way up to that irresistible lady,
...I could not help being struck with the con-
...trast which forcibly presented itself between
...my now flame of the morning, and the well-
...known coquette of her to whom I was
...now to render homage. What a difference
...between the artless grace and unconscious
...charms of Miss Belmont, and the studied at-
...titudes, flounced and furbelowed dress, and
...cropped ringlets, of Mrs. Man-trap! Beauti-
...ful she certainly was, though no longer
...young; but even her most devoted admirers
...must allow that she would have looked bet-
...ter had that fair hair been suffered to droop
...in natural curls, and not been frizzed out and
...tortured into a species of glory round her
...head. With her rouge we will not quarrel,
...as it was but a *soupeon*, and made her eyes
...sparkle with a brilliancy of her own; but
...why, with a really well-turned and fully-
...rounded figure, did she think it necessary to
...disguise its proportions in such a volumi-
...nous multiplicity of starch and drapers, as
...might have defied the most experienced
...dress maker, and skilful anatomist to boot,
...to distinguish the actual from the ideal—the
...real from the illusive?
...How badly you have behaved, Grand,'
...she began, stretching out to me the prettiest
...little white gloved hand, surmounted by a
...puffed-out cloud of muslin, and adorned with
...a gold chain and locket, containing Mr.
...Man-trap's hair, a piece of sentiment the
...more creditable, as their separation, a *men-
...sa et thora*, had long since relieved the
...tedious routine of business in the House of
...Lords—shamefully: you haven't been near
...me for two whole days, and I wanted to ask
...you the rights of this business about young
...Swindle and the Jockey Club, and whether
...you had seen the carriage St. Heliers has
...ordered for Rivolet?
...These were two home-thrusts, as in Mr.
...Swindle's I had taken a strong part, which
...was likely to give me a good deal of trouble;
...and when Coralie's name was mentioned, a
...mingled feeling of anxiety and regard for
...the pretty Jans as, made me almost com-
...mit the indecent joy of blushing.
...But the worst of Mrs. Man-trap was, that
...she had a cool naive way of asking imper-
...tinent questions, and making remarks upon
...the subject nearest one's heart, as if one's
...private feelings were of no earthly con-
...sideration whatever. I strove to answer her
...nevertheless, with a carelessness equal to
...her own, and thinking I had really been
...somewhat inattentive of late, I tried to make
...amends by doing the agreeable to the best of
...my abilities. In all affairs of flirtation, I
...have invariably found that *l'appetit vient en
...mangeant*, and in that, as in many other
...situations of life, if not going 'too fast to be
...pleasant,' we often find ourselves 'going too
...fast to be safe.' We were soon as good friends
...as ever, and were rapidly arriving at that in-
...definite boundary where friendship ceases
...and a warmer relation begins. As usual, I
...thought only of the present; and adopting
...St. Heliers' maxim, 'never to look forward
...beyond dinner-time,' I cut out for myself a
...very pleasant afternoon of gossip and love-
...making with Mrs. Man-trap, varied by ob-
...servations and scandal of our neighbors, tea
...and strawberries and cream for ourselves.
...What cared I, that ninety-nine out of one
...hundred most intimate friends were good-
...naturedly remarking, 'What a fool that boy
...makes of himself, with a woman twice his
...age!' or 'I see Mrs. Man-trap has got hold
...of that unfortunate young Grand!' These
...observations were not addressed to us; on
...the contrary, people rather refrained from in-
...terrupting our *toto-a-tet*, and civilly got out
...of our way as much as possible. So I plied
...my fair companion with compliments and
...flattery, and what she liked nearly as well,
...fed her insatiable appetite for news. We ar-
...ranged a picnic; talked about a joint excu-
...sion to Cowes; voted, almost in plain terms,
...that we were unhappy when separated, and
...agreed to ride together regularly every day
...at five; in short, we were getting on at rail-
...road pace, and Heaven only knows where

...ply with the somewhat hopeless intention of
...being amused, or whether we have 'an ob-
...ject' to which all the lights, ornaments,
...music, crowds, champagne, and dancing are
...merely accessories. Elderly gentlemen, de-
...pend upon it, you have the best of it. The
...lot of woman has ever been to fidget, and
...when she has done being uncomfortable
...about herself, there is but a short interval
...ere it is time to be uncomfortable about her
...daughters; but you, respected head of a fine
...family!—you, portly and port-wine drinking
...patriarch! what have you to do when, to
...your astonishment, you find yourself at a fete,
...but to stick your hands in your pockets, and,
...hub nobbing with your old cronies, enjoy
...yourself to the utmost? What care you that
...Maria's hair has come out of curl, and Mr.
...Jilt has never so much as asked Jane to
...dance? You leave these matters in perfect
...confidence to your energetic lady, whilst you
...discuss last night's division and the ever-
...present ministerial crisis. Now look at your
...son Augustus; 'tis true that his form is
...graceful and his step is light, his hair is
...glossy and his whiskers curled. He is the
...image, so you think, with retrospective flat-
...tery, of what you were at his age, and for
...an instant you sigh to think how long that
...is ago. But could you peep behind the em-
...brodered shirt-front that covers his manly
...chest—could you lay bare the secrets of his
...bosom, you would not envy son Augustus.
...He came to the ball on purpose to meet
...Miss Eglantine, and she is waltzing for the
...second time with Lord Haycock, and has
...not vouchsafed poor Augustus a word. His
...ambition, at his time of life, is to be in a good
...set, and to know all the great people. Alas!
...Lady Overboaring, whose carriage he calls
...like a town-crier, and whom, in such diffi-
...culties, he attends like a running footman,
...has even now passed him without a nod.
...Painfully alive to ridicule, poor lad, Mr.
...Sneersby has just complimented him, ironi-
...cally, upon his back; and with all these
...mingled annoyances, and a variety of out-
...standing unpaid bills, of which, as yet, you
...know nothing (but take comfort, your time
...will come upon that point)—can you lay
...your hand upon your heart and say that you
...would exchange your half-century of ex-
...perience, and the comfortable mental repose
...which it has brought, for the hollow excite-
...ment and craving restlessness of incipient
...manhood?
...Here was I, in the first bloom of youth,
...and the good spirits which accompany that
...unreflecting age, with health, position, not
...money, but credit, which did not equally well,
...and everything else to make life enjoyable,
...and yet I doubt if a more restless discon-
...tented spirit ever walked the earth than was
...mine on that sunny afternoon whilst search-
...ing for Miss Belmont; and then when I did
...find her, and took her into a crush-room to
...drink weak tea, and then prevailed on her
...to accompany me down a shady walk to in-
...spect certain camellias, of which I hardly
...knew the names, did I not, in that very
...peaceful alley, come face to face with Mrs.
...Man-trap, of all people in the world, who
...gave me a look that said, as plainly as look
...could speak, 'Aha, young gentleman! so
...I have caught you at last; but I will put a
...spoke in your wheel, take my word for it.'
...And well did she redeem that prophetic
...pledge in after-days. It must have been an
...instinctive feeling of well-grounded horror
...that made Miss Belmont shrink involuntary
...from her, and ask me 'who that bold-look-
...ing lady was?' 'Tis in vain to recapitulate
...the feelings crowded into such an afternoon
...as that. If there is a turning-point in the
...career of every man, when his good and
...evil destinies are balanced to a hair, and his
...future fate is determined by some trifling
...circumstance, too insignificant to mention,
...surely that sunny evening that saw me
...wander through those fragrant shrubberies
...with Flora Belmont had an influence on my
...later life—at times almost imperceptible—at
...times the only redeeming point in a char-
...acter otherwise steeped in sin.
...Need I say that Mrs. Man-trap's baronche
...was innocent of my weight as it rolled back
...to town, I was in one of those moods when
...solitude and reflection are our greatest lux-
...uries. A new life was dawning upon me. I

...and virtuous schemes for the future was my
...sitting unusually long after dinner with St.
...Heliers, and sundry other choice spirits who
...joined our party, and losing five hundred
...'up-stairs' before I went to bed.
...In making these confessions, I may as well
...state, once for all, that I do not seek to con-
...ceal, far less to palliate, the follies and vices
...into which I, and such as I, unhesitatingly
...plunged. Conscious of my own defects, I
...am aware that many young men enter the
...world under far worse auspices than were
...mine, and came out of that searching ordeal
...pure and unscathed; but I greatly fear that
...these, if not exceptions, are at least only a
...minority; that mine was by no means an un-
...usual case; and if such be the truth, may I
...venture to hope that the simple relation of
...facts and feelings, the plain, unvarnished re-
...cital of each step in the downward course,
...each circumstance in the moral perversion of
...a man born and bred a gentleman, and enter-
...ing life through one of her fairest and most
...promising portals, may serve as a warn-
...ing and a beacon to those who are them-
...selves aware of their instability when exposed
...to temptation—their organic incapability of
...saying 'No!'
...How often do we see a youth, and more
...particularly the younger sons of the nobility,
...thrust upon the world in the falsest of all false
...positions—placed in a station which he has
...not the means of keeping up, and moving in
...a sphere whose necessary expenses must
...eventually entail ruin upon him. He has
...probably been educated at Eton or Har-
...row, with his brother the marquis, and when
...he came home for the holidays, either be-
...cause he was better-looking or cleverer than
...the peer presumptive, he found himself in
...every respect quite as important a personage
...as his elder brother. He rode as good a
...pony, and rode him a turn harder; was put
...into as 'warm a corner' by the keeper at his
...grace's lordly battues, and was in every re-
...spect on the same footing. So far so good;
...it would be hard to make a distinction be-
...tween boys, and it might, perhaps, be as bad
...for the elder as it would be wholesome pre-
...paratory training for the younger. But ere
...long the jacket is discarded for a tailed-coat,
...and there is a question of razors and a dress-
...ing-case. Then comes Oxford or Cambridge,
...and still the young one holds his senior a
...neck-and-neck race; they are both 'tufts,'
...and, as far as income goes, very much on a
...par, as they each run into debt pretty hand-
...somerly, as a matter of course, which debts
...the duke, though not as a matter of course,
...pays. And now comes the tug of war—now
...the younger lordling enters upon the world,
...armed indeed, generally speaking, with a
...frontlet of brass, but woefully deficient in the
...more valuable metal he has all his life been
...learning to squander so freely. 'Lord of his
...presence and small land beside,' his rank
...gives him an entrance into the gayest, the
...highest—what is called the best society,
...which his previous habits teach him to enjoy
...and appreciate. Pleasure is for a time a will-
...ing handmaid, and the butterfly frolics gaud-
...ily in the sun; but, unfortunately, a day of
...reckoning must come; the longest-suffering
...tradesmen like to be paid once in three years,
...and a creditor too often put off becomes at
...each postponement a more pitiless enemy.
...Our scion of nobility, like a child of toil, must
...be clothed and fed; but what would be lux-
...uries to the million are to him the necessar-
...ies of life. It is an indispensable for him to
...be well dressed as it is for a
...man of middle station to be dressed
...at all; and although he may feed
...at the ragogany, and repose on the mat-
...tresses, of another, yet he and his valet must
...move from Castle to Hall; and posting is
...proverbially only to be effected by means of
...ready money.
...Then, must he give up hunting, to which
...he has all his life been accustomed, because,
...forsooth, he cannot keep horses?—brought
...up with the Racing Calendar and Stud Book
...at his fingers' ends, must he abjure the bra-
...cing heath and the velvet sward, over which
...he loves to see the favorite skimming like an
...arrow?