

he still held out against all their offers. He had already been offered several hundred dollars, but still refused; and his companions, without losing their temper, were desperate in their eagerness to win the prize for which they were playing. They represented the hardness of the times; the dullness of trade, especially that part in which he expected to obtain employment; that he could not subsist without money; that he could not with decency return home; and finally wound up with the offer of another hundred dollars. Edward paused before replying. He had yet sense enough to know there was truth in what had been advanced, but he had an aversion to joining the army; and yet, what should he do? He at last came to the conclusion to accept their offer if they added two hundred, instead of one hundred, to their last offer. The bargain was closed, and some money changed hands between them, the balance to be paid next day on the acceptance of the new recruit. It is needless almost to say that the two parties who had enlisted Cunningham made a handsome sum for themselves out of the transaction.

It may be mentioned here that there were such men to be found in every Northern city and town during the war; and they were not particular as to the means by which they obtained recruits, so long as they enriched themselves. They made it a business to procure substitutes for wealthy men, who did not care to go themselves to fight the enemy.

And what was this war all about, that so convulsed the nation? The Southern States had risen in rebellion against the Federal authority, because they feared that the institution of slavery would be done away with by the liberal Republican government which then existed. They formed themselves into a Confederacy, and raised a large army; and even sent armed cruisers to sea to prey upon Northern commerce. The South had able military