

of the regiments of the line with their officers and surgeon's staff going as a reinforcement to one of their garrisons.

We very soon had them removed, from their uncomfortable quarters below, to our 'frigate, and at once set sail for the fleet.

The midshipman informed me that as he approached the prize he thought it was strange that no one came forward to receive him; as he got alongside his heart misgave him, but as he said, 'what could I do? I was sent to take possession, and I was determined to do, it if I was knocked overboard the moment I trod her deck. I sprang on board, saw two boys and a man at the wheel, I at once looked down the main hatchway and saw there were troops on board. I was not long in securing the hatch and gave the man at the wheel instructions to keep the vessel in the trough of the sea, so that if they were disposed to sea sickness they would get the full benefit of the roll.*

"What became of White?" enquired Ronald.

"White," said the captain, "is now a lieutenant on board of my ship.—But the time is passing and I have a walk before me, I am much obliged for your hospitality, and if I ever come this way again I must call and see you.

But before I go I will repeat my invitation to Joseph, think over the matter, and in the course of a few weeks I may be in port and will write to you."

He shook hands with Mrs. Oakson and her eldest son, and started on his journey with Ronald as guide.

As they were going out at the garden gate Mrs. Oakson cautioned her son not to quarrel with any of the squire's men, if he

*Giffard in his "Deeds of Naval Daring" mentions an incident very similar to the captain's story.

In the year 1810, when a squadron of light frigates and sloops was blockading Corfu, the Kingfisher sloop, Commander Ewel Tritton, was stationed off the island of Fano, at the entrance of the north channel of Corfu. At daybreak one morning (after a strong north-west wind had been blowing throughout the night) a fleet of 11 rabaccolas, which had left Brindisi the evening before, was descried making for the channel, and chase immediately given. The jolly-boat, manned by a young midshipman, a corporal of marines, and four boys, with a musket and a few cartridges, was lowered down in passing, to take possession of the nearest vessel, which had lowered her mainsail, while the Kingfisher, under a crowd of sail, pursued the remainder in shore. The youngster on nearing the stranger, saw only a woman on deck, and she was making signs, with her finger up, to preserve silence. He immediately boarded, and found, on looking down the main hatchway, that the hold was full of troops. To secure the hatch was but the operation of a moment, and lowering the foresail, he placed a hand at the helm to keep the vessel in the trough of the sea, increasing thereby the motion, and the sea-sickness, evidently prevailing among the troops below. In this situation he kept them till about three o'clock in the afternoon, when his ship returned, having been unsuccessful in capturing either of the others, when he was hailed by his captain and asked what the vessel was laden with. "Troops, troops," was his reply. "Why, boy, what do you mean—soldiers?" "Yes, sir." "How many?" "I have not ventured to count them." The cutter was soon on board, and search made, when upwards of a hundred officers and men belonging to the 14th Regiment of the Line, intended as a reinforcement to the garrison of Corfu, with a part of a surgeon's staff, were discovered to be the cargo. The prisoners all sturdy young men, were soon removed to the Kingfisher, and after a fortnight's passage, during which the sloop's small crew of 75 officers and men were kept constantly under arms, they were safely landed at Malta. The most remarkable occurrence in this affair was, that the lady on deck was the wife of the surgeon, and had accidentally met the middy some months before, while he was at Prevesa in a prize, to which place she had accompanied her husband and some French officers from the garrison of St. Maura, on a shooting excursion, when an acquaintance and exchange of civilities, not uncommon in those war days, had taken place. She stated she knew him directly in the boat.

There can be little doubt that many incidents similar to the above, occurred during the wars.