

surface every tint from which all colours are deducible, and therefore the difficulty of giving a truthful idea of the exact shade of a Charley's coat must be apparent to the ingenious reader; but we have an impression, and we rather pique ourselves upon its originality, that the colour may perhaps be arrived at by adopting the following recipe, viz: on a groundwork of gamboge and burnt senna, lay on a coating composed of all the other paints in the box in equal proportions. Do not mix them too carefully or apply them too uniformly. An infant artist would be most likely to succeed in the operation.

Although our description has occupied an unusual space, Zachary's toilet required a much longer period to complete; but at length he was robed, equipped and accoutred, ready for action; a few moments were all he required for consideration upon the management of the approaching campaign, and the result of his reflections was evidently agreeable, for he arose with a very satisfactory "Now-I've-got-'em" sort of a smile playing around his features.

"Vell! Zack, here ve be," remarked Messrs. Mummerglum and Quaggy, as they entered Billikens' dwelling; "here ve be 'cordin to 'pintment," and the two worthies entered, armed and dressed very much like the senior watchman, with this addition, however, that each was provided with a pipe, and each wore a hat which had once been of the ordinary depth, but from the repeated buffetings had had its altitude reduced to a most knowing and significant shallowness.

"Here ve be, 'cordin to 'pintment," repeated the two guardians of the night, apparently not knowing that they had made the same observation a moment before.

"Glad to see ye," returned Billikens; "and I 'ope you're vell and 'arty."

"Vell only so so—we took a hextra pot afore we left 'ome, and another vun on our vay in 'onor of *Christmas Eve*."

"And we'll take another to our success," continued Zachary, sending Dick out for the desired beverage.

And while Dick fulfils his mission to the "Ship and Compass," we will travel on to another chapter.

CHAPTER IX.

If there was one particular point of character upon which the members of the old watch were in the habit of piquing themselves, that one was their sagacity. For though it is scarcely possible to overrate the high opinion which they formed

of their physical powers, it is out of the question to insinuate that they were less than perfect masters of strategy, profoundly penetrating when promoting difficult combinations, amazingly accurate in adapting the means to be made use of, to the end to be secured.

That the trio of worthies whom we have left in solemn deliberation at the close of the last chapter, formed no exception to the well established rule, will be sufficiently apparent from the plan of operations upon which they determined, and notwithstanding that our sketch has not been very complimentary to the penetration of Messrs. Mummerglum and Quaggy, still the opinion which these gentlemen had formed of themselves is not, we must candidly confess, very truthfully sustained in our comments—in their own estimation they were "tunning coves," Cunning, it was to be allowed, in a subordinate degree to Billekens, to whom they had the magnanimity to ascribe the quality of superlative sagacity, but they retained for themselves the same property in a mitigated form, for they did think themselves, comparatively, knowing.

It was our intention in these papers to confine ourselves to a narrative of those incidents of character, which, in by-gone-times, adorned our Parish. We did not intend to chronicle the history of those events, which agitated and disturbed our parochial repose. But unfortunately the offices of the Biographer and Historian are not well defined, for while the history of a country continues to be comprised chiefly of individual narrative, Biography must be the key to the interpretation of History. Again, if History is Philosophy teaching by example—it is Biography that supplies the witnesses and examines the testimony—Biography furnishes the examples—History combines the Evidence.

Having said thus much, by way of apology, it remains for us, as we have armed our heroes, to chronicle the tactics which were pursued on the night of the 24th December, 1793.

"Well, gen'lem," remarked Mr. Billekens, "let us consider our plan of hoperations. Mummerglum, give us the benefit of your adwice."

Mr. Matthew Mummerglum knocked the ashes out of his pipe, cleared his throat of the smoke, and between a groan and a sigh, inquired, "Vot bis'ness they vos a go'in ar'ter?"

And after being informed what was the value of the suspicion, and the consequences to which it pointed, remarked that he thought it would be best for each on'em to 'souse hisself in the highest box "and keep 'em bright look out," which being intelligibly interpreted, meant to provide a long candle for his lantern, to suspend the light at