

the ludicrous, he was at all times a loud, vociferous talker, even on the most trivial subject, if any thing that he ever spoke of could be dignified by that term ; for, in general, his conversation was shallow and trifling in the extreme, and, to use a well-known expression, uttered as though he had plums in his mouth : to which might be added, for aught we know to the contrary, a quantity of thick, sticky fluid in his throat, so that his voice resembled a sound between a mumble and a gurgle. He had a large, ungainly person, surmounting a pair of feet that appeared to have been fastened to the wrong owner ; and even that but lately, as he had not yet arrived at a just appreciation of their use for straightforward locomotion. Nor did it only appear that these feet had been misapplied as to person : there seems to have been another grand mistake, for they were not an exact pair by a very long way. But, notwithstanding all these peculiarities, he was evidently a general favorite among the whole of the officers and men of the regiment, although each paid his attentions to him from different and widely divergent motives. One thing was certain, that he was one of the best-tempered men, inoffensive, and of an amiable disposition. The keen, pointed witticism, the plain, coarse, rude joke, might be flung at him ; his person or manners might be ridiculed and burlesqued : still he was always ready with as hearty a laugh as the most hilarious or joyous and fun-loving spirit present. He was also very wealthy ; and who ever yet lost the chance of flattering a rich fool, where any thing might be made out of him by the operation ? He had been the spoiled child of his mother, and in his youthful days had spent most of his time in company of