DIGBY GRAND

CHAPTLE VII.

MIMIC WAR.

Ya my astuation was close behind the salutpout, from which tavorable locality all it intricat managives of the field-day be witnessed, I had an uninterrupted view 1 ... of the most beautiful spectacles to be cen by the public in London, and one for we co, untike air other national exhibitions, there is nothing to pay.

In a a splendid sight to

even more splendid, there is no afterof the guttering present, while nappy is the tan one who recognizes, or thinks she recogwante, the martial form of a brother, a over, or even a husband, assisting in the much astronacy pageant. Wonderful is the me to contact has a charm, but a real uniterm of the killing hue, bedizened with gold me . more especially if surmounted by a pair i tachos, is irresulible.

Section least beautiful portion of the day's despite was the mass of lovely and well are discount who had congregated to see that the word many an exclamation of a literard delight rose from that bewitch a mblage, as column after column after tolumn after column a value and the ground, and halted a t prop r plac with military exactitude and precision.

i. a, papa i said a gentle voice behind
... a cuts funnistakable njoym ut—
i. i. ii. th 17th Lancers, and there is
... ii. th 17th Lancers, and there is
... ii. the Artillery, as far as
... up to ur left. And what is that
... if f lark people coming from behind
... the 22 L k, papa! said a gentle voice behind

the ?"

"It is, my dear, probably," was the i'v that my yesight is so bad, I cannot dear to rything at that distance."

"It is wrything at that distance."

"It is wrything at that distance."

"It is writting are going to de, I do so love to will earl the excited girl.

"It is the king at a pity so much military the search odd be thrown away. I was in a tof taking advantage, of my official."

at a fashing advantage of my official at a referrish the young lady with a recome of the proceedings, when, turn and I become of the proceedings. to the task on a Colonel Belm at whom I had an are at my tather s house, but of whom I new very little, except that he was a well-wer with his only daughter.

Captern Grideric Park of the was a well-were with his only daughter.

tirand?

charge, then opening out like some ingent-ous display of fireworks, retire by wings, and are no more seen. How the infantry in the meantime have betaken themselves to the formation of impregnable squares, and havwere living fortresses bristling with bayonets, are to be The only drawback to the striking manus for the striking manus Frot, who receive and return the combined fire of her Majesty's three regiments of Guards with a gallantry and steadiness that, who bath no friend, no brother there), if ball-cartridges were submitted for blank would win them undying fame. However, the spectators do not find it out, so it mat tal tray: but in this mimiery of war, the sight ters but little. And now there is more smoke than ever, and a little divertissement thought of pain or pity to mar the enjoyment by a dismounted aide-de-camp, whose loos horse much distracts the attention of the ladies. When we have ascertained he is not killed or even hurt, and have time to look about us a little, the line has re-formed, and and white, the martial form of a brother, it alout us a little, the line has re-formed, and more, or oven a husband, assisting in the increasing depends of the firing, producing, as Miss Belmout materiation of woman as regards a searlet observes, very much the effect of running ones. In the absence of a vertable dragoon, ones finger rapidly down the keys of a unitary groomy historians of November, even the stanted and draggled crimson of the stanted and draggled crimson of the stanted and draggled crimson of the stanted has a clarm, but a real unitary of the looser sort, who having got a stanted by the attributes of sundry ragamuffins and boys of the looser sort, who having got a little, the line has re-formed, and about us a little, the line has re-formed, and about us a little, the line has re-formed, and after a steady advance, commences a series of file-firing, producing, as Miss Belmout observes, very much the left ct of running ones. within the lines, are now feigning to suffer great loss and slaughter amongst themselves from the efficient aim of the troops, and are lying about the field in every distorted species of pantomunic death. Fire a volloy, repeat colonels and majors resp ctive regiments and battalions.
Steady, men, says the sergeant-major,
lock up I that rear rank (which does not
amply that one-half the regiment
is to be condemned to solitary resp ctive regiments ues not regiment to imply to confinement, and a thundering voiley discharges itself, under cover of which the uncompromising bayonot is levelled, and a combined charge executed by the whole hne, which looks as if it would sweep general officers, staff, police, speciators, indies, and all 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 skitting hers, 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 to my attentive companion, the points are being placed, and the regiments will march past.

Oh, how delightful I says the fair enthustast. And will your company march past Captern Grand? and shall we hear the omat. band? Papa, now you will see the Guards

And quite close the imposing columns *Could be of any service to you. Colonel?

*Could be of any service And whilst papa was occupied in shaking bonds cordually expressing his delight at our mutual recognition, and overwhelming me with inquiries about Sir Peregrine, whom be had probably seen long since his undutful sen. I had tune to look at the daughter, an a charming voice had first attracted my attention. Heavens! what a beautiful gulful cowns! Far be in from me, tike Olivia, to that upon an inventory of her charmed and the good fortune to possess those violet the many a wise man since the many a man discrept had been chausee, those two them are an individuals in a lady so dress, and as she offen serepeted on the drill ground before a reachable and towards me, and the area of the many and counter marchings, so the fit had seen at a glaine that she was fire of an enemy. This is the seret of all the many in the marchings and counter marchings, so offen secretal by the ignorant of military affairs. This is the object of the frequent payal and counter marchings, so the marchings and counter marchings, so the marchings and counter marchings, so the massive columns have desired the lighternoof the payal and counter marchings and counter marchings, so the massive columns have desired the massive and manner to make a word, it is the massive and manner to a superior the massive and his comparison himself the massive and hims

the property of the property o

Of one not r guacute in in tion. How they advance in word, I am at a loss to conjecture. Of one clumb, covered by skirmishers, as the thing, however, I was certain that the volley smart and active riflemen dot the surface of inquirers concerning our field-day would the Park; how they form line with won-drous rapidity ere the smoke created by the artillery has half cleared away. How the cavalry made a brilliant and inexplicable charge, then opening out like some ingeni-tion of inquirers concerning out in the day would be unbearable under a hot sun, and I therefore determined to drive my own high-stepping grey cab-horse quietly down to Lady Cockle's, and trust chance for making therefore, then opening out like some ingeni-my excuses. The fact was, I never felt so my excuses. The fact was, I never felt so tired of Mrs. Man-trap as on that morning. Fresh from the society of my new acquaint ance, the charming Miss Belmont—the recollection of the manierce woman of the world was thoroughly distasteful; and yet but a few short days ago it was the height of my ambition to be an especial favorite with the latter. There was a degree of eclat to certain circles conferred by her preference that was very fascinating to my vain imagi-nation; and in the absence of Zoc, and the uncertainty of my relations with Coralie, I had almost fancied that I was a little in love with a woman old enough to be my mother. And now a newer idol had driven the images of all those from my min l. Fiven poor Zoe I could scarce bear to think of; and it was with a better feeling of shame that I was obliged to confess such a h-art as mine was not that having—'unstable as water,' and fice as a leaf upon the breeze. But, in the meantime, I dressed as carefully as twenty ever thinks it necessary to adorn itself,—and armed at all points, found my self a well satisfied item of a fashionable throng, enjoying the bright sunshine of a summer afternoon on Lady Cockle's smoothly-shaven lawn.

There were flowers to look at, and shady walks to flirt in; there were glee-singes concealed in a shrubbery, and bloated goldfish in a pond; there was plenty to eat and drunk, and much too few chairs to sit down upon; in fact, good-humouredly, gouty Sir Harlequin Hautboy whispered to me, looking ruefully down the while at a pair or any white brodequins which imprisoned his venerable feet, 'that he should go and sit in the carriage till his daughters were ready to come away —in short, there was all and everything necessary to make the breakfast go off to the satisfaction of every one con-cerned; and even Mrs. Man-trap, whom I soon discovered 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 strack with the contrast which forcibly presented itself between my new flame of the morning, and the wellmy new name of the morning, and the well-known coquetteries of her to whom I was now to render homege. What a difference between the artless grace and unconscious charms of Miss Belmont, and the studied attitudes, flounced and furbelowed dress, and creped ringlets, of Mrs. Mau-trap! Beautiful she certainly was, though no longer young; but even her most devoted admirers must allow that she would have looked better had that fair bair 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 soupcon, 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 voluminous multiplierty of starch and drapers, as might have defied the most experienced dress maker, and skiltul anatomist to boot, to distinguish the actual from the ideal—the

real from the illusive? 'How bodly 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 mon more creditable, as their separation, a mon sa ct 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 Rivolte?' ordered for Rivolte 2'

It has not the different manageures of the more intelligible by underlining every second our journey would have terminated, had I been suddenly arrested in my most emphatic assurances by the drowsy voice of good Colonel Belmont impressing upon another elderly gentleman, in a buff waistcoat, that turnips might be grown the size of his head on light land, or some other kind of land, by applying a certain compost made of sundry costly a ticles, but which must pay in the long run, as had been proved by a inilion-aire on an experimental farm. The olderly gentleman, to his shame be it said, was no agriculturist, and looked as if he did not much care whether the turnips paid or not : but a noble duke, who overheard the conversation, and who was heart and soul interested in the cultivation of the soil, was soon at close quarters with the Colonel, and walked him off before I had time to see whether or not he was accompanied by his pretty daughtor. I need not say that I recognized the good Colonel's drawling tones in an instant, and had some difficulty in concealing from my companion the anxiety I experienced to ascertain if he had come (which was very unlikely) to the breakfast on his own accour.

'Do you know Colonel Belmont or his daughter?' said Mrs. Man-trap, with an intuitive perception of what was going on in my mind.

I stammered out, 'No-yes—that is, I

have been introduced to her.'
'He's a dreadful old bore, but she's a nicelooking, unmeaning sort of girl,' was the careless reply; yet a settled flush on her check-bones, lowering through the rouge, with a contracted smile about her mouth, showed that the speaker was ill at ease.

I was now, however, so eager to discover Miss Belmont, that I felt no scruples in leaving Mrs. Man-trap to the tender care of a gouty peer, who was by way of paying her great attention when he had nothing better to do, and cursing my own stupidity in not having thought of asking the fair Flora whe-ther the was going to the breakfast before I parted with her at the review, I hunted all

over the gardens, like a shepherd in French polish who had lost his love. What a difference does it make in ball breakfast, o. party whether we go there sit. ply with the somewhat hopeless intention of being amused, or whether we have 'an object to which all the lights, ornaments, music, crowds, champagne, and dancing are merely accessories. Elderly gentlemen, depend 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, hob nobbing with your old cromes, 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 everpresent 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 flattery, of what you were at his age, and for an instant you eigh to think how long that is ago. But could you peep behind the em-broidered 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 tor the second time with Lord Howevell. 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 Overbearing, whose carriage he calls like a town-crier, and whom, in such difficulties, he attends like a running footman, culties, he attends like a running notiman, has even now passed him without a nod. Painfully alive to ridicule, poor lad, Mr. Sneersby has just complimented him, ironically, upon his hack; and with all these mingled annoyances, and a variety of outstanding unpaid bills, of which, as yet, you know nothing that take comfort. Your time These were two home-thrusts, as in Mr. Swindle's I had taken a strong part, which was likely to give a good deal of trouble; and when Coralle's name was mentioned, a mingled feeling of anxisty and regard for the pretty Jans as a made me almost come that point and the comfortable mental repose.

found myself shrinking with disgust from the associates and the amusements yesterday had appeared so delightful. I looked into futurity, and pictured a happy home, blossed by the presence of such a one as her from whom I had so lately parted. I saw myself descending on the stream of time, a wiser and a better man, living in the country, ministering to the wants of the poor, happy and respected. Then a momentary twings came across me, as I recollected that one of the indispensable attributes of respectability was the payment of one's debts; and here, I must confoss, I did not see my way very clearly; but without dwelling to long upon that point, I pursued my day dream, shutting my eyes to its disagreeables, and was in the midst of a fairy vision of Havorly Hall with a young and beautiful mistress, a weekly soup-kitchen, a Christmas gathering of friends and relations, and a life of calm, rational, domestic enjoyment.

I had got thus far, and had just carried in the affirmative a knotty point I was debating in my own mind, as to whether I should keep a pack of foxhounds, when a dainty umbrella, thrust into my horses face, arrested our progress, and dissolved my castles in the air at the same instant while Hillingdon's wellknown voice shouted out my name, as picked his way across Piccadilly into St. James' Street.

Lucky that grey horse is only blind of one cye, Digby, or I should have been a case for the hospitals, to a certainty, said my friend, whom I had all but run over; and interrupting my vehement defence of my cab-horse's cyesight, an aspersion I was not inclined to give in to, by assuring me I looked savage and hungry, he proposed that we should dine together at Crockford's in half an hour, and, if not too late for the ballet, go from thence to the opera. What could I do ?—the gastric juices of a boy who has just done growing are clamorous in the extreme about eight o'clock. I was not engaged to dine anywhere else; I had no home but the clubs —a home, by the way, much appreciated by sundry, middle-aged gentlemen who ought to know better— and, though I do not evouse myself for the inconsistency, I merely state the simple fact, that the upshot of all my good resolutions 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 vent to bed.
In making these confessions, I may as well state, once for all, that I do not seek to conceal, far less to pallate, the follies and vice: into which I, and such as 1, 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 unusual case; and if such be the truth, may I venture to hope that the simple relation facts and feelings, the plain, unvarnished recital of each step in the downward course, each choumstance in the moral perversion of a man born and bred a gentleman, and enter-ing life through one of her fairest and mo promising portals, may serve as a warning and a beacon to those who are them selves aware of their instability when exposed to temptation—their organic incapability or 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 rain upon him. He has probabably been educated at Eton or Harrow, with his brother the marquis, and when he calle home for the holidays, either be-cause he was better-looking or eleverer 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 Larder; was put into as 'warm a corner' by the keeper at his grace's lordly battues, and was in every respect on the same footing. So far so good; it would be hard to make a distinction be-It would be hard to make a distinction be-tween boys, and it might, perhaps, be as bad for the older as it would be wholesome pre-paratory training for the younger. But ero long the jacket is discarded for a tailed-coat, and there as a question of razers and a dress-