# THE LITERARY TRANSCRIPT, 

AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCER.

MIDSHIPMAN'S EXPEDIENTS ;

## By the author of "Battin the Bexfer," 8A.

A clean shirt and a shitlinz-a light heart and a thin pair of-of-of refinements-t berse, as the old song says, " will po the work, and brave boys.
at the same time, eminently practical. shall not stop here to inquire what is "going througn the world," for, as all that are in, will go out of it sooner perbaps than they ex. pect, sooner certainly than they desire, wo will not follow up a subject that leads us on sor rapi
${ }^{\text {led. }}$ A clean shirt and a lighe heart. Blessed, and thrice blessed appenda ges to mortality But, alas ! they are not always the attendants on the deserving; for, had such been the case, our worthy friend, Horace Elusfort,
wouid not have awaked one blusterng; Suaday morning in October, without either. half-past seven o'clock on that memerabie or rather on a portion of the waters that covel thisearth, sixteen miles south and by west three quarters west from Cape Ceci.
Already was his hammockman impprtanately standing by the yeuth so unwilling to turn out, already had it been notified to him that seven bells had been struck, and that the officer of the watch was inpatient tiat the stowing of the hamnocks should pleted : and that, for his, Mr. Horace Elmsford's particular hammock, they were only waiting to cover in with wime sunday-find hammock clothes. He tarned listlessly froin side to side ; thou th he could lind no pleasure in his bed, he had no induce nant to rise-he had neither a clean shirt nor a li tht hearh.
It uill be sufficient, in this place, to tell my friends that Mr. Horace Elmsford wis a passed midshipman, a proud and a poor mazi, deal prouder. Horace's fathet was a barris ter, with infinitely more integrity than pra tice, and having a contempt of every 1 i in mean, and bass, and pettifogzing, he w.i.
shunned by the attorness as a walking tibe shunned by the attorneys as a walking fitbef upon the law-
the practice of it
Men of such stern and unbending princi ples should be quietly despatched, and no
oner's inquests permitted to be held upor bodies if they sould happen to be fount; such mon trs of virtue entirely destroy $t$ general-felicity principle-the faslionable one of the day-the greatest happiness tot greatest number; for it the majority are cont-nt to be litte b- th than roru's, that the annoyance occasion" by one thoroughly just man amoņ the coan
munity must be tr mendous. Tiou th Barmunity must be tr mendous. Tuou sh Bar
rister Elnsford was not dead in nature, he was rister Elusford was not dead in nature, he was
dead in law. He wis neither brow-beaten ly dead in law. He was neither brow-beaten ty the judre, cut by his seniors, or elbowed by
his juniors, or pestered by hungry solicitorshis juniors, or pestered by hungry solicitorshe never had a cause. However, he had something better-a small patrimony. Upon this he lived, if without ostentation, without debt, endeavouring, to the extent of his limited means, to right the wronged, and to extend every where that circle of proud content in whic
Horace was his only son. His father had well educated him on shore, and, at the ag of fourteen, had sent him to serve his country in His Majesty's navy. The youth had done so with honor to himrelf and advantage to the profession. He had now some months served his tim', and had passed his examination for the rank of lieutenant, and was, at present, waiting for that promotion that was to be ef fected by an interest-that he had yet acquire.

We have before acquainted our friends where the hero of this, our short tale, was exactly to be found at its opening. If any person is at all curious about the matter, he
or she mav take a pair of compasses and or she may take a pair of compasses and
parallel ruler, and identify the very spot.

But Horce was not in the angry waves buf
fettin? them for his life, nor yut fetting them for his life, nor yet in a cralle of
wicker-work, built affer the fashion of our wicker-work, huint after the fashion of our
rogenitors ; he was in his hammoct, in a large tuh of an oblongated shitpe called an old
$98-z$ sua ship-a a first rate in the books of the as-zun ship-a fisst rate in the books of the
Qdmiralty and the Navy List, and no where Admialty and the Navy List, and no where
Ise. However, slise carried in bier tlark te cess a very decent quantity of that human ati aent for powder, of which hinys and conquerors are solavish. Horace himself was a deficate morse that wat had not yet satpped
up, though the bloody-fanged monster had up, trough fue bloody-fanged tnonst
often made a few shrewd gripes at him.
often made a few shrewd gripes at him.
Who does not know, who knows any thing, the slorealy, bladderinz, teewardly three decker, the Old Harfleur, A ship that never went to windward execpting when she was
towed. Exery boily who ever belonged to her was always trving to ect out of her, and vatoly ever got into ber that could help it. If is mol pleasant to belong to a vessel that wrer conld get into action in time, if things
m welt, of out of it at all if it wore goincto welt, of out of it at all it it
were necessary to run away. Thanks to the gallontry of the British navy, the last prediamentaceret occurrel ; for if it had, the old roghet uond have liees belaboured into a mummy, and pone down a well filled slaughn
terhouse: $\mathbf{f o r}$ I don't think that the ship that lerhouse: Gor 1 don't think that the ship that for a century, could have struck.
Atter all, the old Harfleur, though going to picces, was not a crack ship. She was there ore a sort of refugee for the destitute, a floatin $\&$ prison for supernumerary midshipmen and sup reroratory pursers and marine officers. Her ship's company was, also, the worst in ho fleet. A great part of them were the electid of the jails. It was a happy thing for he callant baronet who commanded them, riat the chan-es were but smail that he should ver be r-quired th aarech through Coveniry with ${ }^{\text {f }}$ d an lem intoaction after all, they would and did eut a better figure there than at
"ow Horace Elmsford came in this wise (to use a good e!1.1 phras.) to he a supernume-
rary passed midstipman on board H. M. S. Hirfl-ulf. If- had very recently belonged to Hirf-ult. He hard very recently belonged to the IS - run brig, the Rulfinch, but this ve sel
f-lin: too stron F an inclintion to " warble folin , too stron r an inclinetion to "warble her native woor-notes wilds, hroum- too furty-two ponad rarronates, had got too
closi inshare wit') the French hatteries, and whilst tiey struck her, she struck the ground When night came, the officers and crew
abandon d the vesset, and taking to their abandon d the ressel, and taking to their
bo ts, s.t fire to hor. The ship's company ont oficers, howevet, aaved their personal eff cct, ant thry, with them, were distribut ed amen; the ships of the Toulon flects.
Now, a year, or prrhaps a year and a hair Now, a year, of perhaps a year and a hak,
before Horace was heaten out of his ship, he was complet-ly cheat-d of his affections, but by a person who ou tht to have known bett-r
He had, for a very short space of time, moved in a remarkably high and select circle, among dedly handsome young fellow, he had bern much petted. All the young ladies-yes, all who were not actually engaged, had made love to him. They did not mean any thing they? - he was only a boy and a midshipman. How could the Ladies Louisa and Amelia How could the Ladies Louisa and Amelia, Fontaineblanque, suppose that the son of a poor lawyer, though in the prettiest naval uniform imaginatle, coulic, for a moment, sons so exclusive as themselves? Therir sons so exclusive as themselves
posed immunity from such presumption was the cause of blinding poor Horace with many sweet hut dan rerons immunities to himself. They fondled this untamed midshipman like very natural--he fell deeply in love with one very natur
of them.
She was a sweet, blue-eyed young creature, that would have loved Horace to disraction if it had been at all proper. Midis the long vacations. Horace had declared
himself in a week, and the gome declared it all very foolish every day ofter vut what vas not cither humane on her part, she gave fim the oppor unity of repeating the declaration twenty times a day,
One day, the pet midslipman hat behaved very ill to the lady; he had either taken, or
refused when he misht have taken, sone refused when he might have taken, soune
little inmocent endearment, \& the younz lady, in her anger, had at last consented that fhe houtd speak to the Earl, her papa. She was very kory for it afterwards, as they were to
have been partners, at least in six s.its, in have been partners, at least in six mists, in
that evening's dance. Half an hour after the fital permission had been granted, the young officer rushed into the presence of his lady. e little better than a maniac.
"0: Bella, Bella !" he exclaimed, dashing atout franeticly his elostering curty, " an the toost miserable of wretches
" What has happened,

What has happened, Horace ?
" Your father has actually turned s.e cut of the house,"
Why then were you so rude to me this morning ?" said the lady, with half a teat in cach cye, and a whole pout upon her lip,
" Heavens and earth! what has that todo "Heavens and earth! what has that to do
with the question $\boldsymbol{q}$ my peace of mind is wrecked-my heart seared-all my future proppects blighted
"How could you be so foolish as to go to " Did you not conseut ! ate you as false as
Gair ? are you"-
"Dear Horace, den't fret yourself so much "D Dear Horace, don"t fret yoursei fo mnch;
how you do go on! pray, sir, do you think no one suffers but yourself? who is to console me for the loss of a partner in at least six dinces
at the ball this evening ? and here we have at the ball this evening ? and here we have
been practising the figure for four mornin"s bece practising the figure for four mornings,
tozether ;-and no other person in uniform." tozether; - and no other person in uniform,"
in $\mathrm{Do}_{0}$ you love me ${ }^{\text {? }}$ Did you ever love "Do you love me? Did you
me ?" suid the impassioned youth. ". Yes, yes; as much as a very young pef son like myself, and a very rutiffil daugiter. onght-prhaps, Horace, a little "ore.--
Mercy, me! That's papa's bell! How fuMercy, me! That's papa's hell! How fu-
riously he is ringing! do er, Hotice, I shentd acver be abl- to supiort a scene"-

## "One word !"

## Impossible

My heart is troken!"-"My father's bell again! Idectote I hear Farewell, for eyes '"- 1 te wrung her hand for an instant, an f , in doing so, $h$
plucked from it quite unconssioustv in tet plucked from it quite unconssiousty in totic parts, I presume, hry embreidered white cam-
bric poek t handkerehief; he thrnst it in tis hosom, flew down the staiss, oveltumed the
coutv old porter in the hall, hurried to Ports couty old porter in the hall, hurried to Ports-
mouth, and, before his furlough was evnicel mouth, and, be fore his furlough was
was walkinz the deck a disconsolate
Now, any young man of ninetecter has not a virtuous and heroiral passion, con-
fossed or uncenfessed, providing that he had a fossed or unconfessed. providing that he had a
fair opportneity of falling in love, must be endued with a heart that ought to rank but one degree above a frost-bitten turnip. chaste aspiration of this description, at once
elevates the mind and purifies the taste. The elevates the mind and purifies the taste. The passion not only buras in the youthful bosom with a generous warmth, but throws also a pure light round the mind, that shows at once
the hideousness of vice, and makes us abho the hideousness of vice, and makes us abhor
what else we might eventually have been what else we micht ev

This lone relic, this cambric handkerchief, Horace treasured with a care almost pious but-for is there not always a vein of earth running through every thing mortal ?-this
treasure, through much fondling and handling treasure, through much fondling and handling, at last became a most fit subject for the laundress. True it is, Horace might have washed it with his tears, and dried it either
with his sighs, or in his hosom, but he did with his sighs, or in his bosom, but he did
not, he only got it nicely cleansed and ironed not, he only gotitnicely cleansed and itoned
and then wrapping it carefulty up in some of the finest silver paper that he could procure he deposited it in leaves of lavender in the sancium sanctorum of his sea-chest. In my
opinion he did as much as a devoted love
could have been reasonably required to do He cared for it mere than the person who oure owned t , appeared to care for him.
Whow we come to the crisis of our tole. M. S. Harfleus Le was dratted into H , of a very indifferent kit of clothes-a grand pussion a little the worse for wear, and a beau tiful, ciean, cambric handkerchief, with oronet delicately worked in the nidde of i When Horace came on board, the midshipman of the brig was contemptuously looked down upen by the magnates of the first-rate Being utterly unknown he was consequently fiendless ; bcing friendless, he was grievously eppressed. He could be nobody. The
lieutenants affected to forget his name, and heutenants affected to forget his name, and captain's steward forgot to ask him to din with his master. He had not yet hob-and nothed in the ward-moen. Mr. Midshipman Tomkins had astonished him by a description of the splendors of his father's one-hopse
siay ; and Mr. master's mate Mucksallow had assured hin that his mothes kept two maid besides a boy. The lover of Lady Isabr!!a Montesche was surrounded by a set of someWoust
Would that it were permitted to me to
nake a dico sion upen shirts. Out of En make a digt sion upon shirts. Out of England, they are the most ill-used article in existeare. All else over the world how vilshallow pretence of assassinated under the rica coal-black nymphe them, that is, a bevy of stream, and with get them into a running pound them, and bethwack them on a piece of rock, crying, " Europe, Europe!" at every blow, When this operation is over they look white enough, certainly, but the little tha remains of them would make excellent lint for the dressings of gun-shot wounds. If these friencs, whom we cherish next to our bodies, are thus scurvily treated in the wesi, they are still worse off in the West Indies.But I cannot dilate on this subject ; neither my time nor my temper will permitit. But I nust shake out a drop of indignation from the nial of my wrath on the blancisscusses of the paltry third-rate towns of the Mediterranea hamediately that a-man-of-war arrivedin ne of these receptacles for sin, the ship was besieged by applicants, some in full dress, with swords by their sides, each with a lon cettificate, soliriting for the honour of wast in. - the stockings and shirts of the English loris. Of course some of the applicants goi Ciem, and the day after, all the respectabie pilt of the township appeared in clean linen. When every third man, not aetually a pauper, confessed himself a noble, this accession of linen was a public benefit-a little certainly to the exasperation of the benefac lor. Let it oukht to have been considered only as an act of national courtesy, to lend the aristocracy of our allies a change of linen and had it not involved a very serious mischief, I should never have complained of ii ; but, unfortunately, these articles were never brought on board until the fore-topssil was shected home, and then only half washed and entirely damp ; and, after a Sicilian den$y$ has worn your shirt for a week, it were as well, not only that it had been well washed but well ironed also.
This episode is not altogether irrelevant to the subject; for, considering the dangers to which an officer's stock was exposed about a quarter of a century ago, who can he surprised that a midshipman was often forced, for want of a clean shirt, to have recourse to all nanner of shifts ?
On the Sunday morning in October, in of cleur conte teredique opens the scarcity thip Harfleur in the cockpit of His Majesty's noying as that of bulliong, and quite gs an-money-market. Including the captain's clerk and the unaster's mates, with the midshipmen, there were just thirty cockpitonians, clean shirts and a-half to muster only five eme so hirs and a-half among them. At that collars were not, and dickeys, but newly in-

