

first Captain A—— did not know that I was deaf and dumb, but he was soon made acquainted with the fact, and he learned to spell on his fingers and so talked with me. He was good and kind to me, but some of the curious Officers looked harsh and kicked me very cruelly, without learning that I was deaf and dumb, as I was playing up and down the stairs in the passage where they lived, and made noise and troubled them, they would kick me. Some were sorry for the cruelties as soon as they learned that I was deaf and dumb, and gave me money.

One night I walked with my companions through the common, from the barracks, to see the little soldiers who used to play fifes and beat drums, and marched several times outside the barrack. I began to shout very loud with pleasure, exactly like the roaring of a lion in the wild desert. But suddenly I was caught by the military sentinel who walked beside the gate, and he put me into the sentry box, and he watched me very much. As I sat in it and I began to be alarmed for some minutes, and I thought I would attempt to escape, but I was afraid that he might certainly shoot me with his gun, and kill me if I did. I came out of it and begged him for mercy, and that I would not do it any more. How glad I was that he let me go free, and I returned home safely.

CHAPTER IV.

AGAIN AT WOOLWICH AFTER LEAVING THE INSTITUTION.

In the year 1854, I left the blessed Institution, where I was educated for seven years. I was not a good scholar, but ignorant, when I left it; but I took great pains in learning to understand the book which I read very attentive for several years, by the aid of Johnson's Dictionary, and it has improved me. I spent my happy days at school. My teacher, Mr. Patterson, was a good and kind teacher, and like a father to poor deaf and dumb boys. I have been a good christian for some time, but I soon became tired of God's service and fell into the old state of sin and sorrow, and my heart grew harder and harder. I repented