

pirate;—‘too high this time,’ said White, and so it proved; it came hurtling over our jib. The captain was watching the effect of our second shot, and it exceeded all expectations; the main-yard was cut in two or broken, and as the yard and sail came down together, our officers and men set up a shout. “Well done White,” said the captain, “that’s one for you.” The command was then given, “clear the bow guns for instant action.”

The word was passed, and all was stir and bustle above and below. The pirate would very soon have been at our mercy had we been further from land, as it was they ran in for a reef of rocks, with which they were no doubt well acquainted.

We continued to fire upon the craft until we saw they had set fire to her, and were escaping in their boats. We lay to until she blew up, when we sailed away very much disappointed.

Soon after this I received my commission, and we were ordered to the Mediterranean, where one of our fleets occupied Corsica. The Republicans were preparing to enter Italy, with one army by the Alps, and with another through the neutral territory of Genoa. Our frigate with a number of others, and sloops, formed a squadron stationed off the French coast. Early one morning we descried a number of barques a little to the east of Cape Taillat; there was a good stiff breeze from the west, and they were evidently making for some of the Genoese ports; we instantly gave chase and very soon so far over hauled them, that the nearest vessel thought it prudent to lower her mainsail, for we had sent her one shot which had done her some little damage. The captain ordered the jolly boat, manned with a young midshipman, a corporal of marines and a few boys with muskets, to be lowered as we passed her, and instructed the youngster to take possession and follow our course until we returned.

Our fellows more by signs than words, seemed to think it a good joke that the captain was passing upon the young officer, on account of his dislike to the service and general unpleasantness of manner.

But both the captain and myself knew the lad better than any of them, and thought it would please him to receive this mark of confidence, none of us dreaming that the barque was anything, more than a trader laden, possibly, with provisions and stores. We crowded on sail in pursuit of the others and succeeded in making one capture, but all the rest got into Nice, so we returned with our prize a small merchant vessel.

As we neared the first prize, I saw the youngster on the look out for us and as soon as possible the captain hailed him with,—“What have you on board?” When to our utter astonishment, the answer came,—

“Troops, troops, Sir.”

“What!” shouted the captain, “you dont mean soldiers!”

“Yes, Sir, soldiers.”

“How many?”

“I do not know.”

You may be sure we did not lose any time in sending the cutter on board, when we found over one hundred men belonging to one