

any way attempted to question the dignity or the respectability of his office. He was tall in stature, noble in his figure and general carriage; with an eye large, clear, dark in color, and penetrating; a prominent Roman nose; a deeply bronzed countenance, with all the indications of having seen much and severe service. But there had been other influences at work, that had most seriously affected that fine and noble frame, than had been encountered in the service of his country. He had been a valetudinarian—his fine constitution had been emaciated by his vices far more than by the hard professional service that he had seen; and, to use a significant expression, he was indeed a patched-up man. Gambling and wine were the deities at whose shrine he had been a most devout worshipper; and withal he had been no inattentive votary at the more material, but perhaps not less enervating, *cuisine* delicacies. Now he was tormented with gout, together with a legion of other diseases, that caused him to totter on in the imbecility of a premature old age; notwithstanding which, the fires of former dissipation still smouldered within him, and the smirking frivolities which would but ill become even the boy not out of his teens, subjected him to the ridicule and contempt of all true admirers of manly virtue.

The next to be presented, in the order of rank, is the major. This gentleman was a kind of nondescript: had a large, full face, with an unmeaning expression, blotched all over, the natural result of vicious indulgence; a remarkably wide mouth, and large, protruding lips; with a tongue far too big even for his capacious mouth, so that, when he spoke, it gave a kind of abrupt and uneven blurt to his expression. To add still more to