

... heaven, and taught you the exist-
... of a fairy-land of which, to such as you,
... granted a far away and occasional
... What would you give to be
... to embody such blissful visions and
... them up at will? Let me have
... hair brush, a few dabs of
... and, behold! I am the magician before
... wand these dreams shall reappear tan-
... substantially, enduringly: alas! for
... mortal shortcomings, sometimes a little out
... drawing, sometimes a little hard and cold;
... still, Hal, I can make my own world,
... such as it is, and people it for myself; nor do
... convey any man on earth, except, perhaps, a
... sculptor. To have perfected and wrought
... in the imperishable marble the ideal of
... whole life, to walk round it, and smoke
... cigar and say, 'This will last as long
... St. Paul's Cathedral or the National Debt,
... and this is mine, I made it'—must be a sen-
... sation of delight that even we poor painters,
... with our works comparatively of a day, can
... hardly imagine; but then, what we lose in
... durability we gain in reproduction: and so
... more I repeat, let who will be stater-
... man, warrior, stock-jobber, or voluptuary,
... give me the pallet and the easel, the
... *de d'un point-e*, the line of beauty and
... the brush!

'Can you wonder that I should wish my
... to tread the same path? Had I but
... begun at his age, and worked as I should
... have worked, what might I have been now?
... could I but make amends to him by leading
... him up the path to real fame, and see Vere
... the regenerator of modern art, I should die
... happy.'

'And now, Hal, I must ask you of your
... own pursuits and your own success. I do
... often see an English paper; but these
... are a fine sporting people, with a dash of our
... English tastes and love of horseflesh, and in
... a small pothouse where we put up last week,
... in the very heart of the Banat, I found a
... print of Flying Childers, and a Bell's Life of
... the month before last. In this I read that
... your Marigold colt was first favorite for the
... Derby, and I can only say that I hope he
... will win, as fervently as I should have done
... some years back, when he would have car-
... ried a large portion of my money, or at least
... of my credit, on his back. I have also gath-
... ered that your short-horn won the prize at
... the great cattle-show. 'Who drives fat oxen
... must himself be fat.' I trust, therefore, that
... you are flourishing and thriving; also, that
... Constance, the most stately little lady I ever
... beheld at two years old, still queens it at the
... Manor-house. I will write again shortly,
... but must leave off now, as my boy is
... calling me to go out. He grows more like
... his poor mother every day, especially about
... the eyes.—Adieu, Hal; ever yours,
... PHILIP EGERTON.'

LETTER II.

'The longer I linger here the more I be-
... come wedded to the land in which, after all,
... I have known the few hours of real happi-
... ness I ever spent. Yes, Hal, with all its
... pain, with all its anxieties, with everything
... and everybody battling against me—that was
... my golden year, such as I shall never see
... again. She was so generous, so gentle, and
... true; she sacrificed all so willingly for me,
... and never looked back. Such courage, such
... patience, and oh! such beauty; and to lose
... her after one short year. Well, it is my
... punishment, and I bear it; but if it had to
... be done again I would do it. Surely I was
... not so much to blame. Had she but lived
... I would have made her such amends. And
... after all she is mine—mine in her lonely
... grave under the acacias, and I shall meet her
... again. Weary the years have dragged on
... since I lost her, but every birthday is a mil-
... stone nearer home; and in the meantime I
... have Vere and my art. As we wander about
... the wild country, and scamper across its
... boundless plains, and I paint and smoke, and
... try to be happy.'

'We arrived here last night, and I need
... scarcely tell you that Edeldorf is an English

... multitude, who comes out admirably and
... lights up the whole sketch, when an officer
... and a couple of Austrian dragoons rode into
... the midst of the busy horse tamers, and very
... rudely proceeded to subject them to certain
... inquiries, which seemed to meet with sulky
... and evasive answers enough. After a time
... the Austrian officer, a handsome boy of
... twenty, stroking an incipient moustache,
... ordered the oldest man of the party to be
... pinioned; and placing him between his two
... soldiers, began to interrogate him in a most
... offensive and supercilious manner. The old
... man, who was what we should term in Eng-
... land a better sort of yeoman farmer, of
... course immediately affected utter ignorance
... of German; and as the young Austrian was
... no great proficient in Hungarian, I was com-
... pelled most unwillingly to interpret between
... them, Vere looking on meanwhile with his
... mouth wide open, in a state of intense be-
... wilderment. The following is a specimen of
... the conversation:—

Austrian Sub-Lieutenant, in German.—
... Thou hast been hiding deserters; and so
... shalt thou be imprisoned, and fined, and
... suffer punishment. I have to
... modify these threats into Hungarian.—
... Brother, this noble officer seeks a deserter.
... Knowest thou of such an one?

'Old man—'My father, I know nothing.'
... Austrian Officer, with many epithets,
... modified as before by your humble servant.
...—'You shall be punished with the utmost
... rigour if you do not give him up.'

'Old man, again, my father, I know nothing.'

'Officer, losing all patience, and gestulat-
... ing wildly with his sword—'Slave, brute,
... dog, tell me this instant which way he took,
... or I will have you hanged to that nearest
... tree, your family shall be imprisoned, and
... your village burnt to the ground.'

'Old Man, as before—'My father, I know nothing.'

'The case was getting hopeless; but the
... young officer had now thoroughly lost his
... temper, and ordered his men to tie the peas-
... ant up, and flog him soundly with a stirrup-
... leather. Here I thought it high time to
... interpose; I saw the wild Hungarian blood
... beginning to boil in the veins of some dozen
... dark scowling fellows, who had been occupied
... tending the horses. Eyes were flashing at
... the Austrians, and hands clutching under
... the sheepskin where the long knife lies.
... Fortunately the officer was a gentleman and
... an admirer of the English. With much dif-
... ficulty I persuaded him to abandon his cruel
... intention, and to ride on in prosecution of his
... search; but it was when his back was turned
... at the tide of indignation against himself
... and his country swelled to the highest. The
... peasants' faces had actually become convulsed
... with rage, their voices shook with fury, and
... threats and maledictions were poured on
... their masters enough to make one's very
... blood run cold. If they ever do get the
... upper hand, woe to the oppressor! There is
... nothing on earth so fearful as a Jacquerie.
... God forbid this fair land should ever see
... one.'

'We journeyed on in a different direction
... from the dragoons, but we caught occasional
... glimpses of their white coats as they gleamed
... through the acacias that skirted the road;
... and I was just thinking how well I could put
... them in with a dab or two of chalk against a
... thunder-storm, or a dark wood in the midst
... of summer, when the bright sun makes the
... foliage almost black, and debating in my
... own mind whether the officer would not
... have made a better sketch if his horse had
... been a light grey, when my postillion pulled
... up with a jerk that nearly chucked Vere out
... of the carriage, and pointing to something in
... the road, assured "my Excellency" that the
... horse was dying, and the rider, in all proba-
... bility, lying killed under his beast. Sure
... enough, an over-ridden horse was prostrate
... in the middle of the road, and a young man
... vainly endeavoring to raise him by the bridle
... and calling by all the terms of endearment
... and abuse in the Hungarian vocabulary,
... without the slightest effect. Seeing our

... no mistaking the effects of the gymnasium.
... Stay, I have it, he is a fencing master; that
... accounts for the military appearance, the
... quick glance, the somewhat worn look of the
... countenance, and he is going to Edeldorf, to
... teach Do Rohan's boy the polite art of self-
... defence. So much the better. I too, love
... dearly a turn with the foils, so I can have a
... glorious 'set-to' with him to-morrow or the
... next day; and then, when we are more inti-
... mate, I can paint him. I think I shall do
... him in oils. I wish he would turn his head
... the least thing further this way.' I had got
... as far as this when my new friend did indeed
... turn his head round, and looking me full
... in the face, thus addressed me: 'Sr, you
... are an Englishman, and an honorable man.
... I have no right to deceive you; set me down,
... and let me walk.' Vere looked more aston-
... ished than ever. I begged him to explain
... himself. 'I tell you,' said he, 'that I am a
... thief and a deserter. My name is posted at
... every barrack-gate in the empire. I am
... liable to be hanged, if taken. Are you not
... afraid of me now?' 'No,' exclaimed Vere,
... his color heightening and his eyes glistening
... (oh! so like her). 'Papa and I will take care
... of you; don't be afraid.' My boy had anti-
... cipated what I was going to say; but I as-
... sured him that as I had taken him into my
... carriage I considered him as my guest, and
... come what would I never could think of
... abandoning him till we reached our destina-
... tion. 'Of course,' I added, 'you are then
... free to come and go as you please. If you
... have done anything disgraceful, we need
... never know each other again. I do not wish
... to hear of it. You are to me only a belated
... traveller; permit me to add, a gentleman, to
... whom I am delighted to be of service. Will
... you smoke? Let me offer you a cigar.' The
... blood rushed to his face as he declined the
... proffered courtesy; for an instant he looked
... half offended, and then, seizing my hand, he
... exclaimed, 'If you knew all, you would pity
... me—nay, more, you would approve of what
... I have done.' He turned suddenly to Vere,
... and rather startled him by abruptly exclaim-
... ing, 'Boy, do you love your father? is he
... all the world to you?' 'Yes,' said Vere,
... coloring up again, 'of course I love papa,
... and Nurse 'Nettich' too.' That worthy
... woman was fast asleep in the rumble. 'Well,'
... said the stranger, more composedly, 'I love
... my father, too; he is all I have in the world,
... and for his sake I would do the same thing
... again. I will tell you all about it, and you
... shall judge between me and my crime.' But
... my new friend's story I must defer, my dear
... Hal, to another letter. So for the present,
... *Vice valeque!*

CHAPTER II.

THE DESERTER.

Dim and strange are the recollections that
... steal over me while I read these time-worn
... letters of one who, with all his faults, was
... the kindest and best of enthusiasts. It seems
... like a dream; I cannot fancy that I am the
... child alluded to. It seems though all this
... must have happened to some one else, and
... that I stood by and watched. Yet I have a
... vague and shadowy remembrance of the
... warm autumnal evening; the road soft and
... thick with dust; the creaking and monotonous
... motion of the carriage, and my waking
... up from an occasional nap, and finding my-
... self propped by the strong arm of a stranger,
... and nestling my head upon his broad should-
... er, whilst my father's kind face and eager
... eyes were turned towards my new acquain-
... tance with the earnest comprehensive look I
... remember so well. My father always seem-
... ed to take in at a glance, not only the object
... that attracted his attention, but all its acces-
... sories, possible as well as actual. I believe
... he never left off painting in his mind. I
... remember nothing very distinctly; and no
... wonder, for my little brain must have been
... a strange chaos of shifting scenes and unex-

... clearly before him, and could count that two
... and two make four, and never five.

'Very few men are soldiers at heart, and
... those who love the profession and would fain
... shine, can only see only one way to success,
... and that must be the old-established track
... that has always been followed. If I wanted
... to move across that stream and had no boats
... what should I do? I would try if it be too
... deep to wade. But the regulation says,
... soldiers shall not wade if the water be be-
... yond a certain depth. So for six inches of
... water I must be defeated. That should
... not be my way; if it came no higher than
... their chins my men should cross; and if we
... could keep our muskets dry, where would be
... the harm? Well, I soon rose to be a cor-
... poral and a sergeant; and whilst I practised
... fencing and riding and gymnastics, I learnt
... something of gunnery and fortification, and
... the art of supplying an army with food. At
... last I was made a lieutenant and paymaster
... of the regiment, for I could always calculate
... readily, and never shrank from trouble or
... feared responsibility. So I had good pay and
... good comrades, and was getting on. Mean-
... while my poor father was distressing himself
... about my profession, and imagining all sorts
... of misfortunes that would happen to me if I
... remained a soldier. In his letters to me he
... always hinted at the possibility of some great
... success—at his hopes of, before long, placing
... me in an independent position; that I
... should leave the army to come
... and live with him, and we would
... farm an estate of our own, and never
... be parted any more. Poor old man; what
... do you think he built on? why, these foolish
... lotteries. Ticket after ticket did he purchase,
... and ticket after ticket came up a blank. At
... last, in his infatuation, he raised a sum of
... money—enough to obtain him all the num-
... bers he had set his heart upon—for he mixed
... calculation with his gambling, which is cer-
... tain ruin—and for this purpose he embez-
... zled two thousand florins of his employer's prop-
... erty, and wasted it as he had done the rest.
... In his despair he wrote to me. What could
... I do? Two thousand florins were in the pay-
... chest. I have it here in this leathern bag. I
... have saved my father; he is steward at
... Edeldorf. I shall see him to-night; after
... that I must fly the country. I will go to
... England, the land of the free. I am ruined,
... degraded, and my life is not worth twelve
... hours' purchase; but I do not regret it.
... Look at your boy, sir, and tell me if I am
... not right.' He is a fine fellow this, Hal, de-
... pend upon it; and though my own feelings
... as a gentleman were a little shocked at a
... man talking thus coolly of robbery in any-
... thing but the legitimate way on the turf, I
... could scarcely remonstrate with him now
... the thing was done; so I shook him by the
... hand, and promised him at any rate a safe
... convoy to Edeldorf, which we were now
... rapidly approaching. You like a fine place,
... Hal, you always did. I remember when
... you used to vow that if ever Fortune smiled
... upon you—and faith, it is not for want of
... wooing that you have missed the goddess's
... favors—how you would build and castellate
... and improve Beverley Manor, till, in my
... opinion as an artist and a man of associations,
... you would spoil it completely; but I think
... even your fastidious taste would be delighted
... with Edeldorf. The sun was just down as
... we drove into the park, and returned the
... salute of the smart Hussar mounting guard
... at the lodge; and the winding road, and
... smooth sward dotted with thorns, and those
... eternal acacias, reminded one of a gentle-
... man's place in Old England, till we rounded
... the corner of a beautifully-dressed flower-
... garden, and came in view of the castle
... itself, with all its angles and turrets and em-
... brasures, and mullioned windows, and pic-
... turesque ins and cuts; the whole standing
... boldly out in a chair-o-scuro against the
... evening sky, fast beginning to soften into
... twilight. Old De Rohan was on the steps to
... welcome me, his figure upright and noble as
... ever; his countenance as pleasing; but the
... beard and moustache that you and I remem-

... curly, looked all over the high-bred and
... he was. Free and bold, his large, frank blue
... eyes, and wide brow, shaded with clustering
... curls of golden brown, betokened a gallant,
... thoughtless spirit, and a kind, warm heart;
... whilst the delicate nostril and handsomely-
... curved mouth of the well-born child betrayed,
... perhaps, a little too much pride for one so
... young, and argued a disposition not too
... patient of contradiction or restraint. His
... little companion was as unlike him as pos-
... sible, and indeed most people would have
... taken Victor for the English boy, and Vere
... for the foreign one. The latter was heavy,
... awkward, and ungainly in his movements,
... timid and hesitating in his manner, with a
... sallow complexion, and dark, deep-set eyes,
... that seemed always looking into a world
... beyond. He was a strange child, totally
... without the light-heartedness of his age,
... timid, shy, and awkward, but capable of
... strong attachments, and willing to endure
... anything for the sake of those he loved. Then
... he had quaint fancies, and curious modes of
... expressing them, which made other children
... laugh at him, when the boy would retire into
... himself, deeply wounded and unhappy, but
... too proud to show it. As he looks now at
... Victor's sword, with which the latter is
... vaporing about the hall, destroying imagi-
... nary enemies, Vere adds—

'What becomes of the people that are
... killed, Victor?'

'We ride over their bodies,' says Victor,
... who has just delivered a finishing thrust at
... his phantom foe.

'Yes, but what becomes of them?' pur-
... sues the child, now answering himself. 'I
... think they come to me in my dreams; for
... sometimes, do you know, I dream of men in
... armor charging on white horses, and they
... come by with a wind that wakes me; and
... when I ask 'Nettich' who they are, she says
... they are the fairies; but I don't think they are
... fairies, because you know fairies are quite
... small, and have wings. No, I think they
... must be the people that are killed.'

'Very likely,' replies Victor, who has not
... considered the subject in this light, and
... whose dreams are mostly of ponies and
... plum-cake—'very likely; but come to papa,
... and he will give us some grapes.' So off
... they go, arm-in-arm, to the great banquet-
... ting-hall; and Vere postpones his dream-
... theories to some future occasion, for there
... is a charm about grapes that speaks at once
... to a child's heart.

So the two boys make their entrance into
... the banquetting hall, where De Rohan sits in
... state, surrounded by his guests. On his
... right is placed Philip Egerton, whose dark
... eyes gleam with pleasure as he looks upon
... his son. Who but a father would take de-
... light in such a plain, unattractive child?
... Vera glides quietly to his side, shrinking
... from the strange faces and gorgeous uniforms
... around; but Victor walks boldly up to the
... old Count, and demands his daily glass of
... Tokay, not as a favor, but a right.

'I drink to Hungary!' says the child, look-
... ing full into the face of his next neighbor, a
... prince allied to the Imperial family, and a
... general of Austrian cavalry. 'Monsieur
... le Prince, your good health! Come, clink
... your glass with me.'

'Your boy is a true De Rohan,' says the
... good-natured Austrian, as he accepts the
... urchin's challenge, and their goblets ring
... against each other. 'Will you be a soldier,
... my lad, and wear the white uniform?'

'I will be a soldier,' answers the child,
... 'but not an Austrian soldier like you. Aus-
... trian soldiers are not so brave as Hungarians.'

'Well said, my little patriot,' replies the
... amused general. 'So you do not think our
... people are good for much? Why, with that
... sword of yours, I should be very sorry to face
... you with my whole division. What a Light
... Dragoon the rogue will make, De Rohan!
... see, he has plundered grapes already.' And
... the jolly prince set back in his chair, and
... poured himself out another glass of 'Im-
... perial Tokay.'

To be continued.