



PRIVATE PEPPER.

WHO was Private Pepper? He was no less a personage than Steve Garland's terrier dog. He was a rough fellow, with long, tangled hair, which was generally ornamented with sundry burrs and briars. His eyes peeped through the rough hairs, which half covered his face, like blackberries shining among brambles. His nose was as cold as a snowball, and as pliant as rubber. In short Pepper was any thing but a beauty; nevertheless, he was as much of a pet with Steve as handsome terriers and poodles sometimes are with weak-minded women. Steve hunted rats, rabbits, and cats with Pepper. He fed him, and fondled him, and even went so far as to let him sleep on his bed, which, in my opinion, was a somewhat dirty practice.

Now, like some other boys, Steve caught the soldier fever. He wanted to get up a military company. But living as he did in the country, at some distance from neighbours, it was difficult to find recruits. However, Steve was a persevering fellow in some things, so he enlisted his brother Fred, and Fred's wooden horse for cavalry, and Pepper!

Steve had no trouble in drilling Fred's horse. It always moved when it was pulled, and stood still when it was let alone. Wasn't it a wonderful horse? Fred was a harder case. He had to be talked to a good deal before he would keep his heels together and his toes apart, his head up, and his eyes straight. But Pepper! Ah what an amount of patience and of bread it required to bring him to stand "soldier fashion." But perseverance overcomes all things, even long haired, cold-nosed terriers;