

all young men looking forward to the higher employments in the naval yards were to be regularly educated; and, after being thoroughly grounded in the mathematical and mechanical parts of the subject, to serve for a certain time afloat on board some of his Majesty's ships of different classes, and thus learn by actual experience the application of those principles in which they had been previously instructed.

How, during the existence of the school, this latter condition was constantly evaded, and by what influence the whole establishment was gradually undermined, and has now fallen entirely to the ground, it is not in my power to explain. Perhaps my readers may think that this circumstance accounts for much of the affection for old routine which they must have already remarked. It is evidently impossible to expect that one officer at the Navy Board, and two at the Admiralty, however laborious and distinguished for zeal and exertion, can superintend and direct, not only all that daily current business of their departments which requires a professional opinion, but the various alterations and improvements which equally call for attention. Under these circumstances too much is inevitably left to inferiors, who pursue the beaten track in which they have been brought up, and too much is postponed until a more convenient season, which, alas! never arrives.

The Comptroller of the Navy, and the two junior