

thing out of them ; but in a short time the awkward gait and general clumsy appearance was exchanged for activity, animation, and grace of figure and movement. In this respect, man is very much like a machine, which you can make travel fast or slow, just as you arrange it."

"Well, well, I am not going to give any opinion about it. I'm sure that if you are an Arondale you will do all you promise," said Mrs. Oakson. "My father used to say the Arondales were hard enough and sharp enough, if you crossed them, but they'd stick by their friends and promises to the last extremity."

"That's our motto, Mrs. Oakson, 'Strong and True.' I want you distinctly to understand that I am not wanting to persuade, much less entrap, Joseph into His Majesty's Service. We are wanting men badly enough, but I would much rather obtain them by fair, plain statements, than the abominable systems practised by crimps and press-gangs."

"I have been told," said Joseph, "that many of these men that are deceived and enticed and in some cases carried by main force, on board of the supply ships, become reconciled, and take quite kindly to the profession."

"They do, in many cases; I have seen such," said Captain Arondale, "but the alternative is terrible, if they try to withstand duty, or authority, I suppose I should say. If a man is satisfied that the position he is placed in, is really one of duty, he will generally submit to circumstances; but if he is a resolute, or self-willed man, and is convinced that he is governed by absolute rule without reference to what is right, he will be apt to rebel. And I have seen such cases too, and very severe means employed to compel into submission such high spirited men, obstinate men they are called, but such are always the best men when you can get them."

I have had long experience in these things, and so I can speak with greater confidence as to the correctness of my opinions. We all know what a wide difference there is in men's temperaments, in their opinions and tastes. Some are fond of a wild, roving, unsettled state of life, and to gratify this propensity will sacrifice home comforts and associations, domestic ties and worldly emolument. Men of this turn will enter the army or navy, and feel happier under privations, and often bodily suffering, than they would in a quiet life in their native village. Such men, however, are usually men of loose habits, and equally lax principles, while not a few are, or end in being, adventurers of the most worthless, reckless character, who mock at honour, and regard reputation as a jest.

Some of our great generals say, 'the worse the man, the better the soldier.'

In some respects this may be true, but it is not in all. Such men are good machines, but they are by no means the bravest and truest in the hour of conflict. The question, however, to be settled is, whether, since we must have an army and navy, it is not the best to employ men who have few social longings, men to whom the name of home brings few or no pleasing memories, no bright pictures on which the eye loves to linger, but often dark scenes of violence and wrong, which make the flesh creep and the blood tingle