

TWO DIALOGUES BETWEEN A CORPORAL AND
A PRIVATE SOLDIER.

WRITTEN BY A LIEUTENANT COLONEL OF THE ARMY.

DIALOGUE I.

Corporal. Ha, comrade, you are perfectly sober, I hope! who expected to see you upon your guard this morning, when you had so narrow an escape from the halberds yesterday?

Soldier. Narrow indeed! Had it not been for your kind interference, I must have been now in the black hole, on bread and water.

C. You may well thank me: for had I not stepped up to the adjutant, when he perceived you staggering in the ranks, and said all I could to him in your behalf, you had certainly passed the night there.

S. I am sure I should, and shall be glad if I can make any return for your kindness.

C. If I could but get you, Bob, to follow my advice, I should be well repaid for the attention I have shown to your welfare for some years past; this is not the first time, remember, that I have stood in the gap for you.

S. I know it well, and will begin to try and mind what you say in future.

C. Well, then, I will claim your promise now; as it is no likely we shall be interrupted while on guard, let me entreat your serious attention to what I am going to say. I mean it for your good; could I but accomplish that, I should be satisfied. There are two shameful vices, drunkenness and swearing, which I know you to be particularly guilty of; tell me what good you can expect from them; or what pleasure can you find in them; and I will tell you, from the best authority, their dreadful consequences at last.

S. I do not know any good they do me, only harm, I believe; but I love the jovial company of my brother soldiers: and when we meet together to be merry, you know we must drink; and as to swearing, I mean no harm by it, and hardly know when I swear.

C. Do you think such an excuse as this would have satisfied the adjutant at roll-call last evening?

S. No, I know him too well for that. It would only have put him in a passion, and made him pass sentence upon me at once.

C. Then how can you possibly imagine it will be admitted?