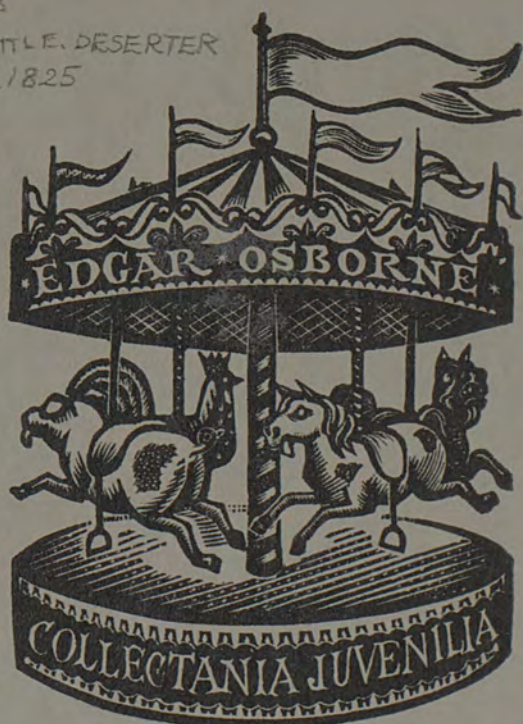


SB

LITTLE DESERTER

ca. 1825



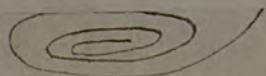
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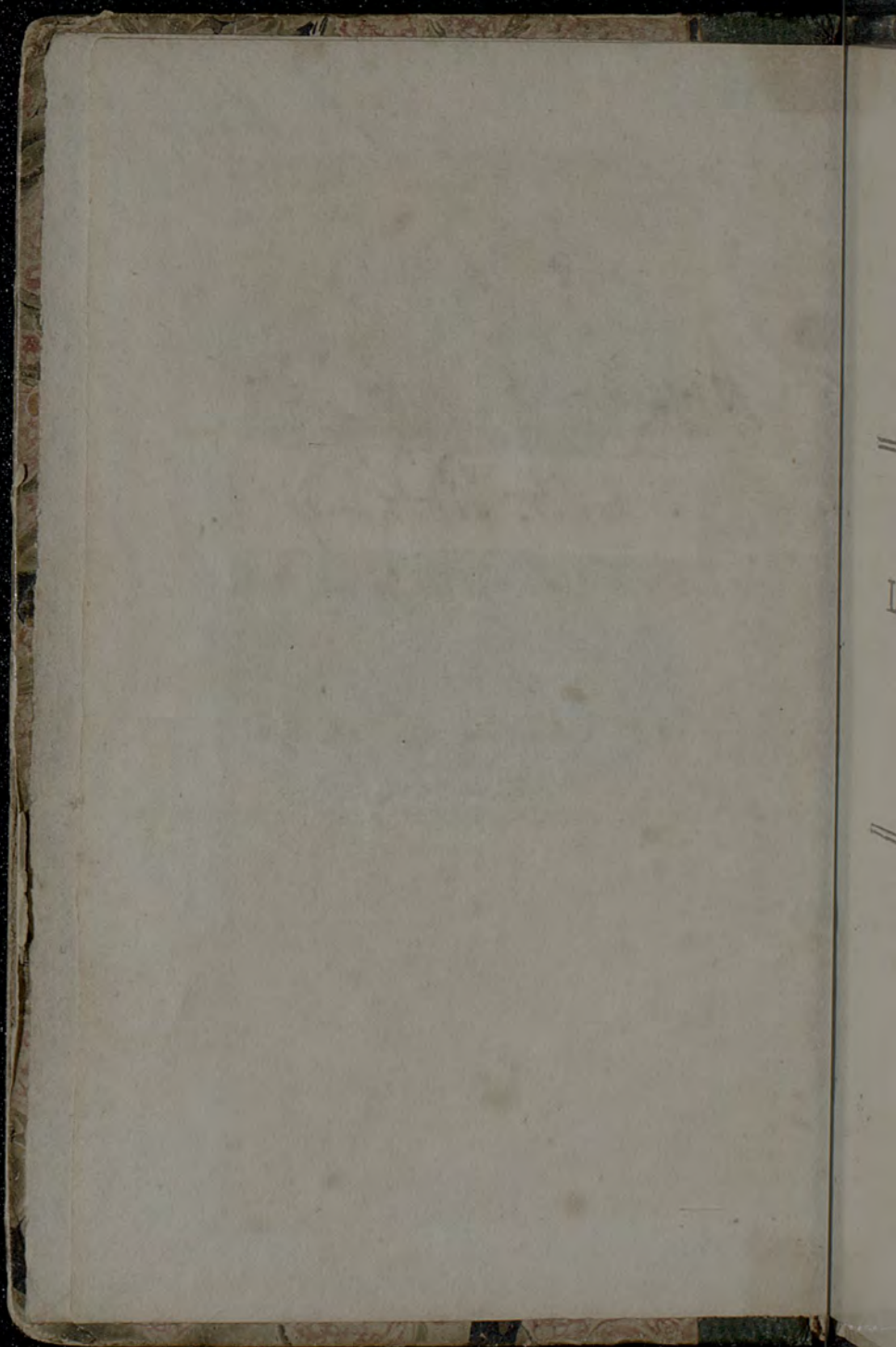
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John Simpson, Rothery
1826.

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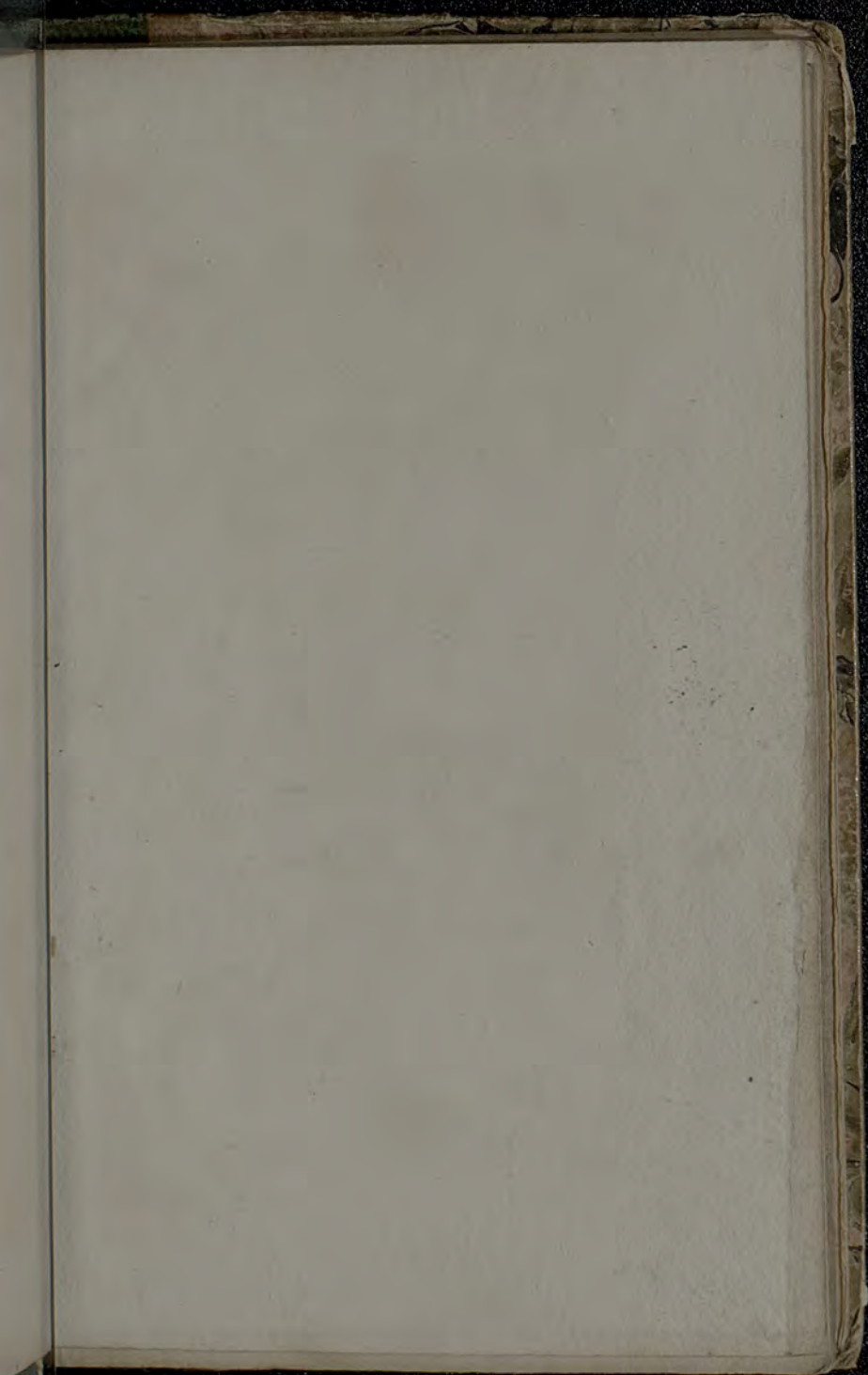
C W Rothery, Knaresbro.





THE
LITTLE DESERTER;
OR,
HOLIDAY SPORTS.

THE
LITTLE DESERTER;
OR
HOMER'S STORY.



(4.)

FRONTISPIECE.



The youthful soldier here will find
Scenes form'd to charm his ardent mind.

THE
LITTLE DESERTER;

OR,

Holiday Sports;

AN AMUSING TALE:

DEDICATED TO ALL GOOD BOYS.

Embellished with Fifteen Beautiful Engravings.

Gay hope is theirs, by fancy fed,
Least pleasing when possess;
The tear forgot as soon as shed,
The sunshine of the breast!

GRAY.

EDINBURGH:
PUBLISHED BY OLIVER AND BOYD,
HIGH STREET.

THE
LITTLE BOOKS
OF
Fainting Figures

AN AMUSING TALE:
DEDICATED TO ALL GOOD BOYS.

First Printed with Typographical Engravings.

Oh! how I love to learn, by fancy's aid,
To read the history of the world;
The first of kings, the first of men,
The first of the first of the first!

GEORGE.

EDINBURGH:
PUBLISHED BY OLIVER AND BOYD,
HIGH STREET.

THE
LITTLE DESERTER;

OR,

HOLIDAY SPORTS.

FREDERICK, Julius, and Henry, the sons of Mr Stanley, a gentleman of independent fortune, arrived at their father's seat in Hampshire to spend the summer holidays. Escaped for a short time from the labours of the

8 THE LITTLE DESERTER,

school, they were determined not to lose one of the happy days of vacation; and as Mr Stanley had every reason to be satisfied with the progress they had made in their studies, he informed them that he wished, by some mark of his favour, to reward their diligence; and desired to know what recompense would be most pleasing to them.

Ан! papa, cried Julius, how good you are; we shall be so happy! After musing some time, they began to

make their demands. Henry, who was fond of riding, wished to have a poney, and Julius was entreating his father to give him a large microscope, when Frederick interrupted them— Ah! father, I have just thought of a play that will amuse us all; only give us muskets, swords, a drum, and military dresses, and we will form a company of soldiers.

HENRY eagerly adopted this proposal; Julius alone hesitated: he did not promise himself so much amuse-

ment as his brothers, from this military pastime; but by persuasion they at length prevailed, and he inlisted under the banner of Captain Frederick, who, as the inventor of the sport, was named first to the command; but it was agreed that each should enjoy this honour in rotation.

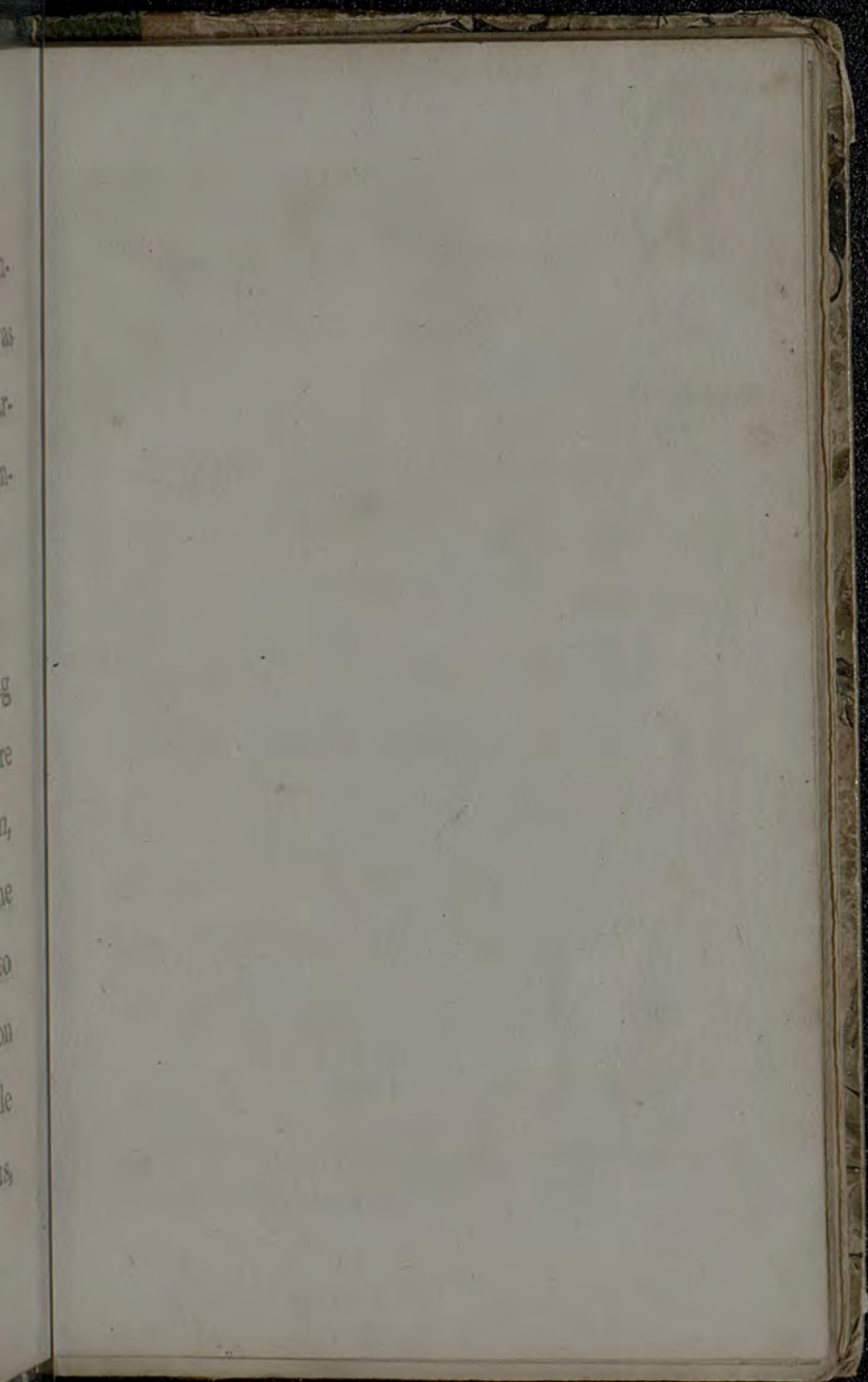
MR STANLEY, who had himself served in the army in his youth, sealed the proposal by his approbation; and, in order that no time might be lost, he despatched a servant with the

young soldiers, to the next market town, where an annual fair was held that week. In the evening they returned, loaded with wooden guns, tin swords, and all the requisite arms and accoutrements for opening the campaign vigorously.

EARLY on the following morning operations were commenced; the marquee that stood on the lawn was put in requisition of camp equipage; posts were established; a watchword and countersign were agreed upon;

and Stanley Hall assumed the semblance of a fortress, which idea was also favoured by the antique appearance and castellated form of that mansion.

MR STANLEY smiled on surveying these warlike preparations. Before proceeding farther, he warned them, as they valued his favour, to confine themselves in their sports entirely to the arms he had given them; and on no occasion to take up or handle fowling-pieces, or any other fire-arms,



FORWARD, MARCH!



"Left Right! Left Right!"

which, through carelessness, might be left in their way.

Having promised implicit obedience to this injunction, they proceeded to exercise: Julius and Henry, with firelocks shouldered, marched after their captain, who, sword in hand, regulated their step with the precision of a drill serjeant, crying out occasionally, "Left! Right! Left! Right!"

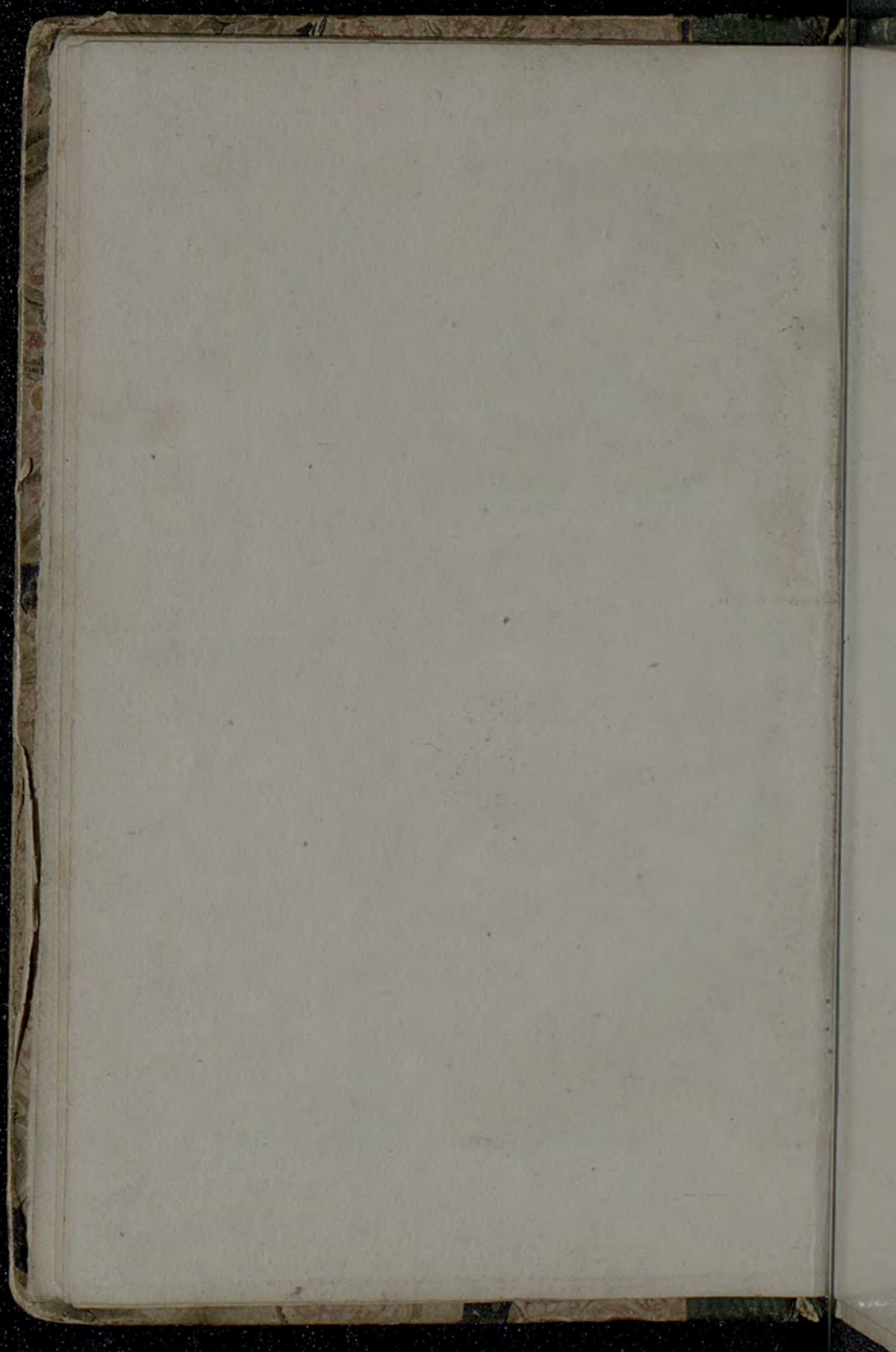
IN this manner they marched several times round the garden, always

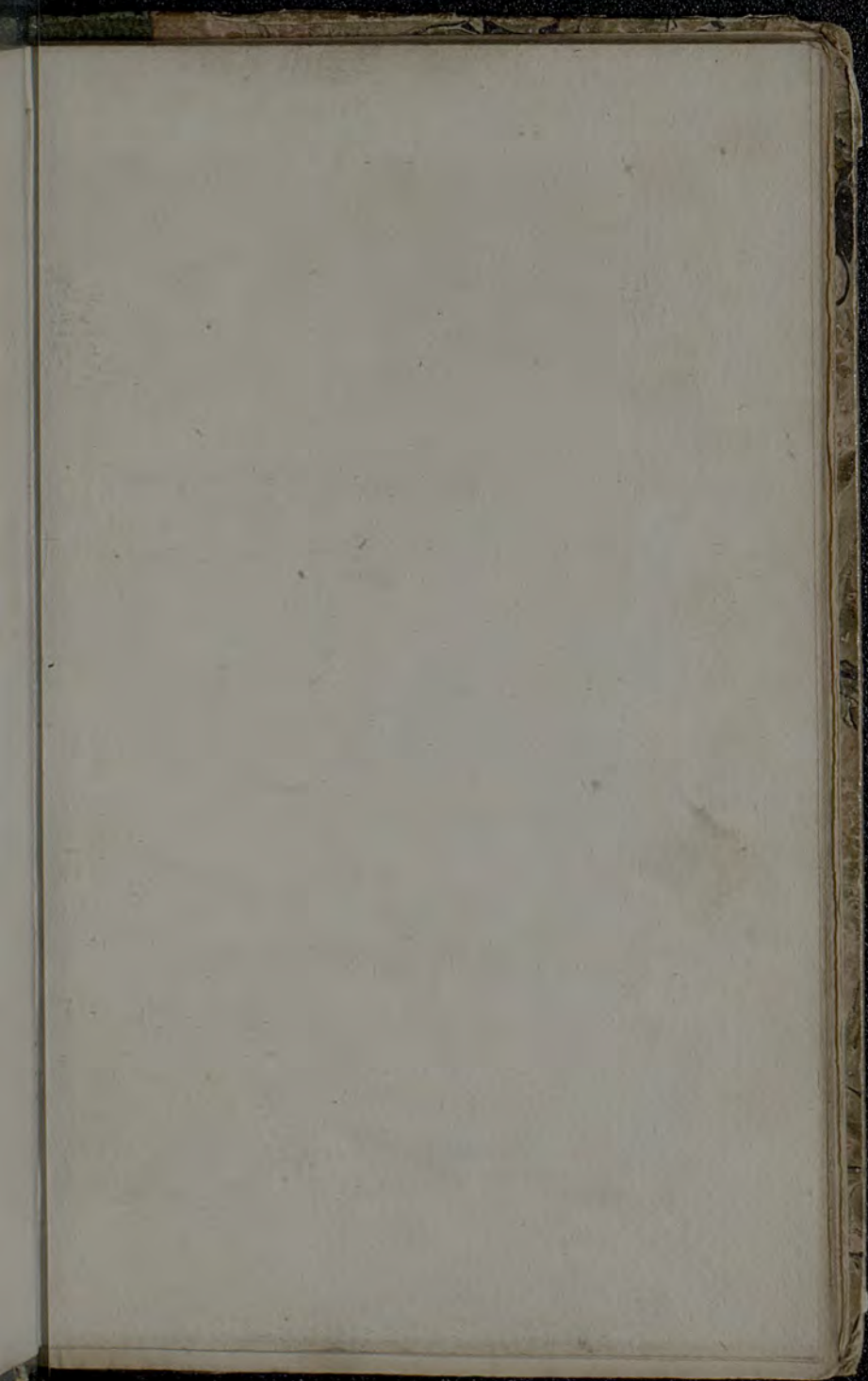
strutting prodigiously when they passed before Mr and Mrs Stanley, who had just bestowed some very flattering encomiums on their martial appearance, when Frederick gave the command—"To the right face!" Julius not paying much attention to it, turned the contrary way.—"Look at the simpleton, he mistakes left for right," cried Frederick. Poor Julius was quite confounded at the jeers of his brother soldiers; and even Joseph the gardener, who happened to be at work near the scene of action, could not avoid laugh-

RIGHT, FACE!



Look at the Simpleton 'he mistakes left for right!'





"CHARGE BAYONETS."



"Courage, my lads, that is very well!"

ing with the rest; the presence of his parents alone restrained Julius from leaving his brothers to finish the campaign themselves. "Indeed, Frederick," said he, blushing, "you have "no pity on us; your discipline is "much too severe."—"Well, we shall "pause a while, that you may have "time to rest," said Frederick.

"ATTENTION to the word of command! Charge bayonets!—Courage, "my lads! that is very well; we "should soon be perfect, if Julius

“ would try to look more like a soldier : one would imagine that his musket is too heavy for him, he handles it so slovenly.”—“ That is because I am tired,” replied Julius. “ Tired !” repeated Frederick, “ a soldier knows no fatigue ; he may indeed complain when he has lost an arm and a leg, but not sooner.”

“ THAT is saying a great deal,” interrupted Mr Stanley ; “ but without carrying our ideas of fortitude so far, it is necessary that a soldier should

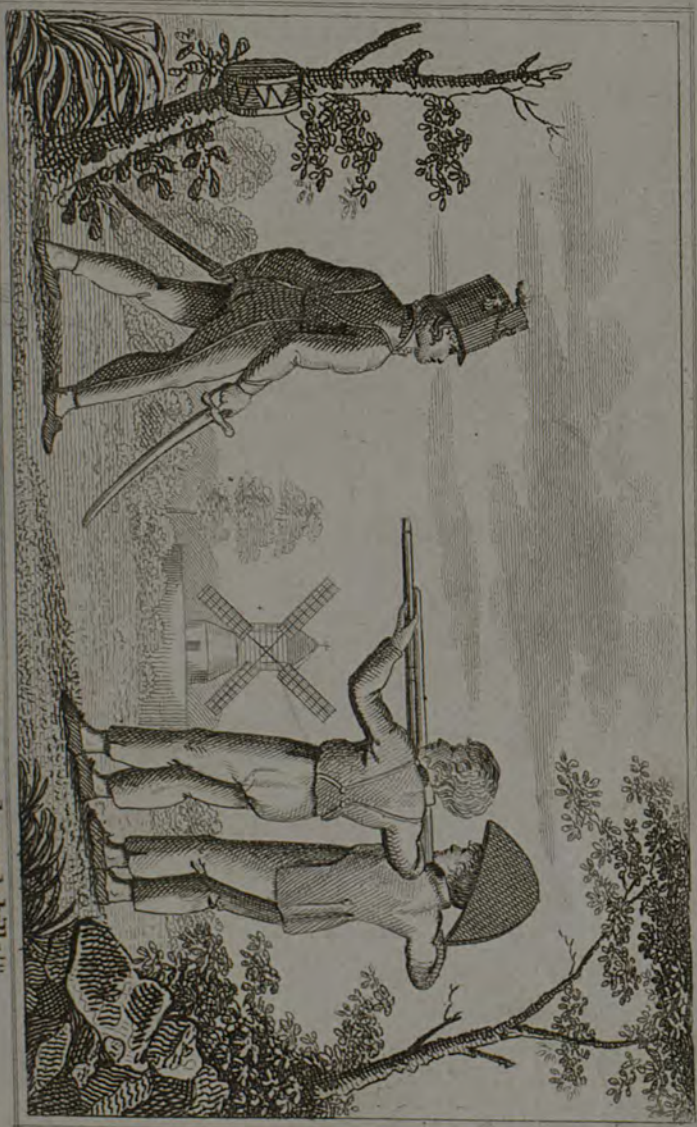
“ be able to endure fatigue, and to
“ submit cheerfully to every species of
“ toil and privation, that the nature
“ of the service he is engaged in may
“ require. Every boy of spirit ought
“ to resist the first approach of idle-
“ ness, and even in his sports should
“ exert every energy of his mind. Con-
“ tinue your exercise, my children ;
“ this short interruption has given
“ Julius time to recover himself.”

THE little warriors again resumed
their arms, which they had laid down

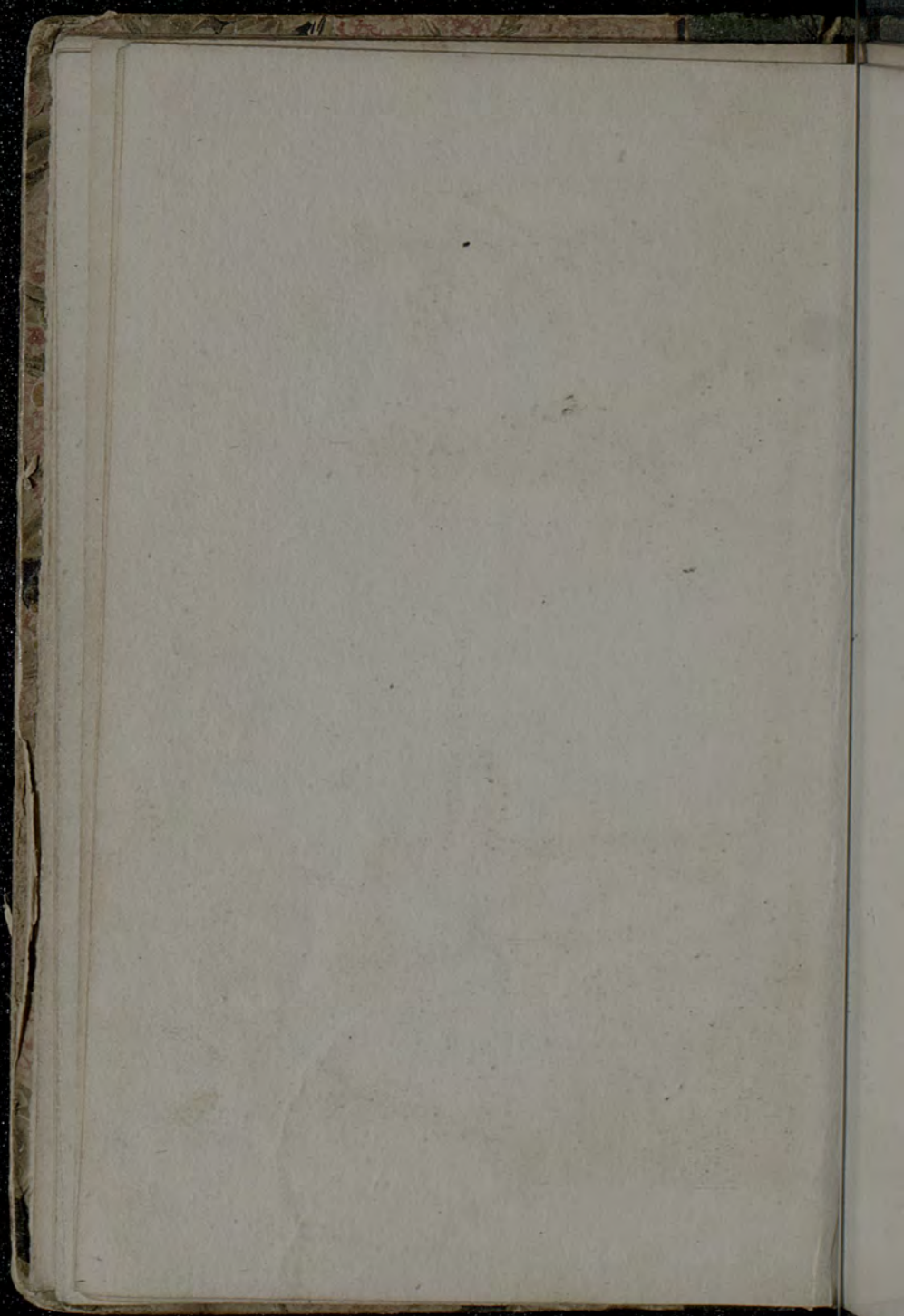
while their father spoke to them, and Frederick recommenced his manœuvres.

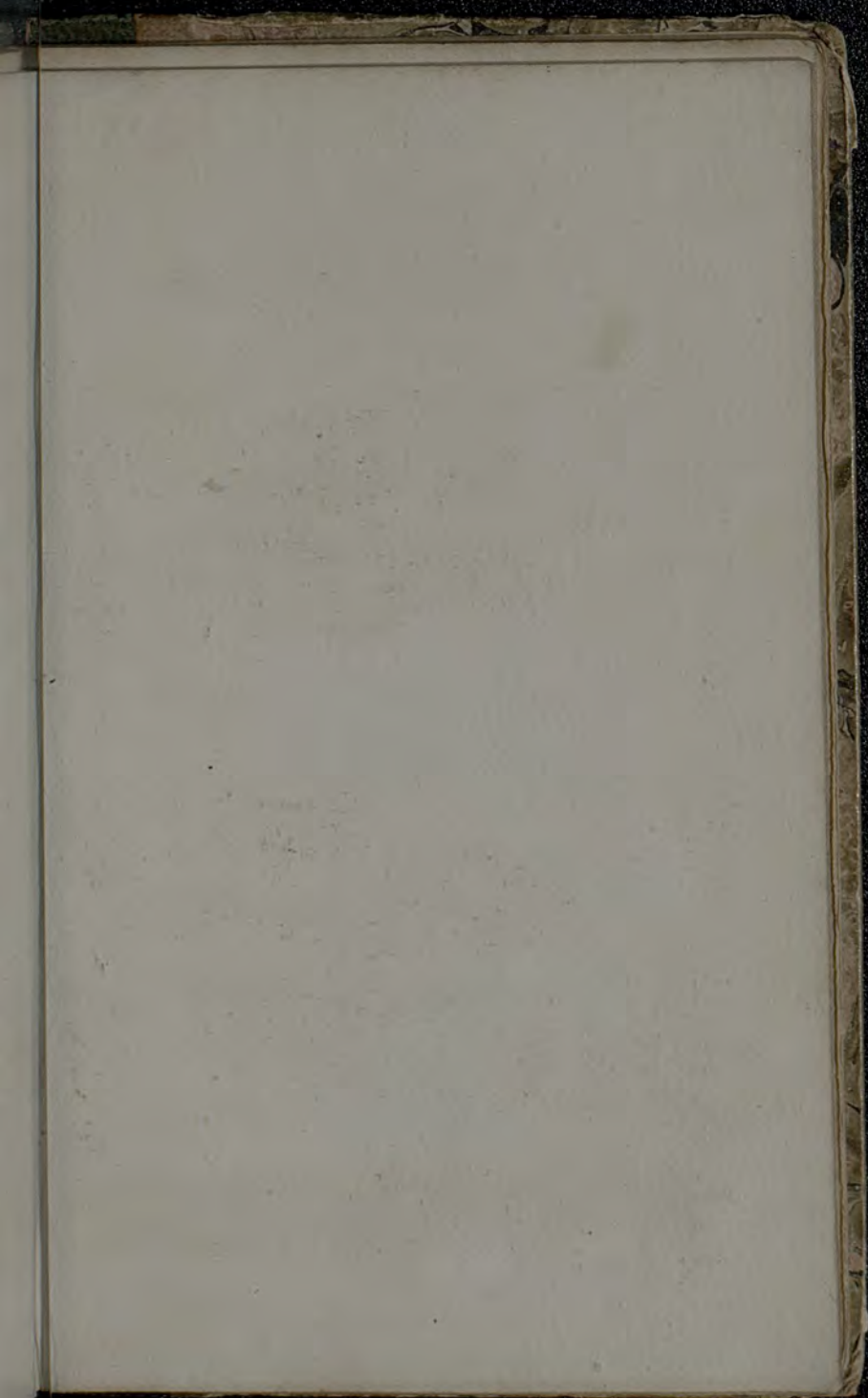
“ATTENTION! Carry arms! Port
“arms! Charge bayonets!—very well;
“Shoulder arms! Present! now take
“good aim for the drum, which you
“perceive I have fixed to that tree
“for a mark—Fire! What marksmen!
“Julius seems to aim at the larks, and
“Henry at the moles!”—“How at
“the moles?” cried Henry, “I aimed
“above the mark, at the middle of

“PRESENT FIRE!”



“John seems to aim at the Larks, and Henry at the molehills!”





"CARRY ARMS!"



You handle your muskets, as if they were broomsticks!"

“ the tree.”—“ At the foot of the tree
“ you mean, Mr Henry.”—“ Very
“ well, Frederick, if you cannot see,
“ that is no fault of mine.”—“ Silence !
“ we shall begin again. Carry arms !
“ You handle your muskets as if they
“ were broomsticks !—again : that is
“ better—Forward ! March !”

FREDERICK had now to perform the double part of drummer and captain ; with one hand he flourished the drumstick, while the other grasped his sword :—In this manner he marched

his little troop into a corner of the court-yard, that served them for a parade, through which was the entry into a low apartment, and this they called their guard-house: here they halted, and he gave the command, "Order arms! and now we shall have a little practice at fencing."

THEY had laid down their muskets, and placed themselves in their positions, when Julius suggested, that as the parade was much confined, and the walls heated by the sun, it would

"ORDER ARMS."



"Now, we shall have a little practice at fencing."

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be better to repair to the camp on the lawn, where the fresh breeze would revive them : to this proposal they all agreed, and scampered off together to the camp.

HENRY was now posted as sentinel, while Frederick and Julius put themselves into the proper attitudes for fencing. The first, always full of ardour for this exercise, had evidently the advantage. Julius began to be piqued, when his brother pushed him rather closely, saying at the same

time, "come Julius, parry that thrust." Julius, in a pet, threw down his sword; and probably his rising anger might have been excited against Frederick, had not their cousin Charles just then appeared in view; his presence restored good humour.

"How fortunate this is! said Frederick, we shall now have another soldier; you are a recruit, Charles, and I am your captain; if you have any regard for your military reputation you must join our ranks.—What

FENCING.



"Come, Julius, parry that thrust!"

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“say you to it?” “I shall become a
“soldier, with all my heart,” replied
Charles.

“HARK! eight o’clock strikes; take
“the drum and beat a tattoo. Henry
“will remain at his post until reliev-
“ed, and you, Julius——But Julius
“is not here! where has he gone?”

THEY called him aloud, and after
searching the lawn and court-yard in
vain, they found him at length seated
quietly in the parlour with his father

'BEATING TO ARMS.'



"Comrades, Julius says, that he will desert!"

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their military adventures till the ensuing day.

HAVING breakfasted betimes next morning, they were preparing to resume their operations, when they observed Charles hastening towards them with an air of much importance.

"Comrades," said he, "I have overheard Julius say that he will desert from us!"

"WE shall see that presently," replied Frederick, "let us beat to arms."

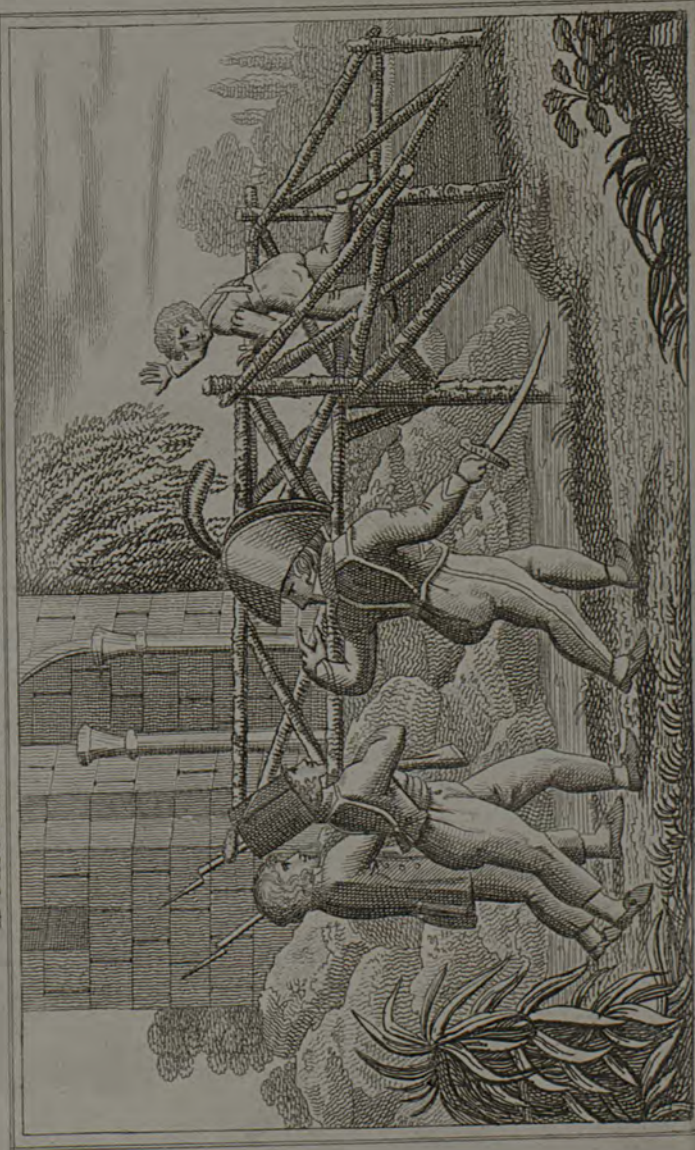
THIS summons not bringing Julius, Frederick climbed a wall, from the top of which he observed him at a distance, playing at ball. "I perceive," said he to Charles, "that your suspicion is not groundless; he has lost all desire for military fame, and abandons us like a coward; but he shall be punished for it!"

THEY now put themselves in motion, with the design of taking the deserter prisoner, concealing their march as much as possible, that they might

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PURSUIT OF THE LITTLE DESERTER.



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come upon him unperceived. In crossing an avenue, however, Julius got a glimpse of them ; and suspecting the nature of the service they were employed on, he did not wait their approach, but ran towards home with all possible expedition.

FREDERICK cried out to his party ;
“ let us run ; look, he now passes the bridge !” But Julius was not to be caught so easily ; having gained the other side, he suddenly turned into the ruins of an old vault, which had

in former times communicated with the house, and hid himself in one of the recesses. From this place he saw his comrades pass, without being perceived by them; but Frederick, astonished at his disappearance, expected he had concealed himself, and made use of a stratagem to lure him from his hiding-place: the pursuers, after searching about, pretended to take another route, making much noise and bustle until they were at some distance; they then returned quietly another path, and after concealing them-

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"THE DESERTER TAKEN."



selves by lying down behind a part of the ruins, patiently waited the result of their stratagem.

THEY did not remain long in ambush when Julius made his appearance: he was proceeding very tranquilly, to amuse himself on the bank of the rivulet that ran past the house, when the party surrounded him.—

“ You are our prisoner !” said Frederick, “ and you must accompany us
“ to head-quarters, there to be tried
“ for desertion: in the mean time,

“you must be confined in the vault
“under the old tower.”

“BUT I have not deserted,” said
Julius.—“Yes, you have deserted,
“and must be punished: take him
“away!”

CHARLES and Henry conducted the
offender to prison; a large stone, with
some straw laid on it, served him for
a seat, and a pitcher of water was all
the sustenance he was allowed in his
confinement.

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JULIUS IN PRISON!



"When it is my turn to be Captain, I shall put them in prison too!"

JULIUS, it may be conceived, was not much pleased with the accommodations of his apartment: after having tried every method he could devise to effect his escape, but without success, he threw himself down on his stone seat, venting many threats against his comrades for shutting him up in this dismal place: "Ah," said he, "when it is my turn to be captured, I shall put them in prison too!"

"YES, you may, when we are so cowardly as to desert," said they to

him, through the grate of his prison
—" but this is not all ; you are to be
" brought presently before a court-
" martial, where your fate will be de-
" cided."

" INDEED ?—I am very glad of
" that," replied Julius : " for after you
" have shot me, I can go and play at
" ball again."

AFTER a short interval, Charles was
ordered to conduct the deserter before
Frederick and Henry, who were seat-

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ALIVE, AND WELL!



"I suppose, now that I am shot, I may be permitted to go!"

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ed in great pomp at a table, on which lay pens, ink, and paper, Henry acting as secretary. Charles gravely took his place at this formidable court, and poor Julius was seated on a stool at the foot of the table.

THE necessary examinations being gone through, the prisoner was found guilty. After some time spent in deliberation, Frederick, as president, demanded silence, and said,—“ Let
“ us now determine what his punishment shall be.”

“He must be shot,” said Henry ;
 “the enormity of his offence demands
 “it.”

“OH no !” replied Charles ; “my
 “voice is for imprisonment ; he wishes
 “no better than to have such a sen-
 “tence carried into immediate exe-
 “cution, in order that he may get off,
 “when it is over, to play at the ball.”

“THAT does not signify,” interrup-
 ted Frederick, “he must be punished
 “according to law : he has deserted,

“ and the articles of war declare death
“ to be the punishment for that crime :
“ what are your opinions ?”

“ I VOTE for imprisonment,” said
Charles ; “ and I for death,” added
Henry. Frederick being of the same
opinion, sentence was passed against
Julius in due form.

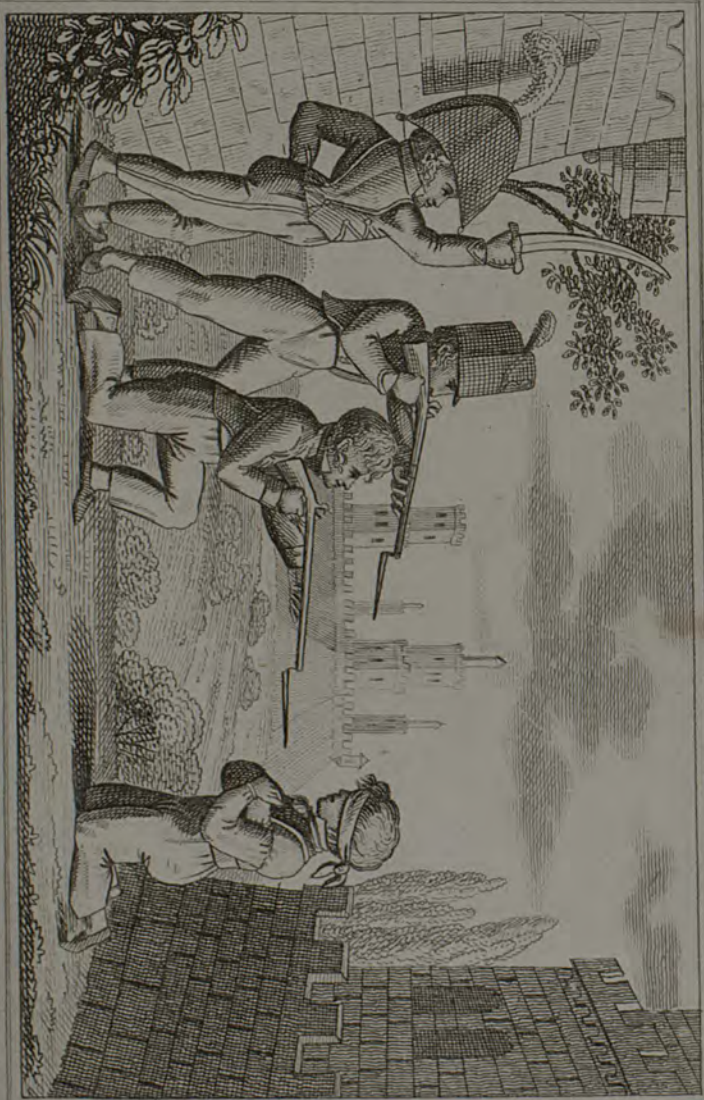
THE prisoner, after an interval of
some time, was guarded to the place
where sentence was to be put in exe-
cution against him, his hands still

bound. After they had tied a handkerchief over his eyes, he was desired to kneel down, and Frederick holding up his sword as a signal, gave the fatal word,—“ Fire !”

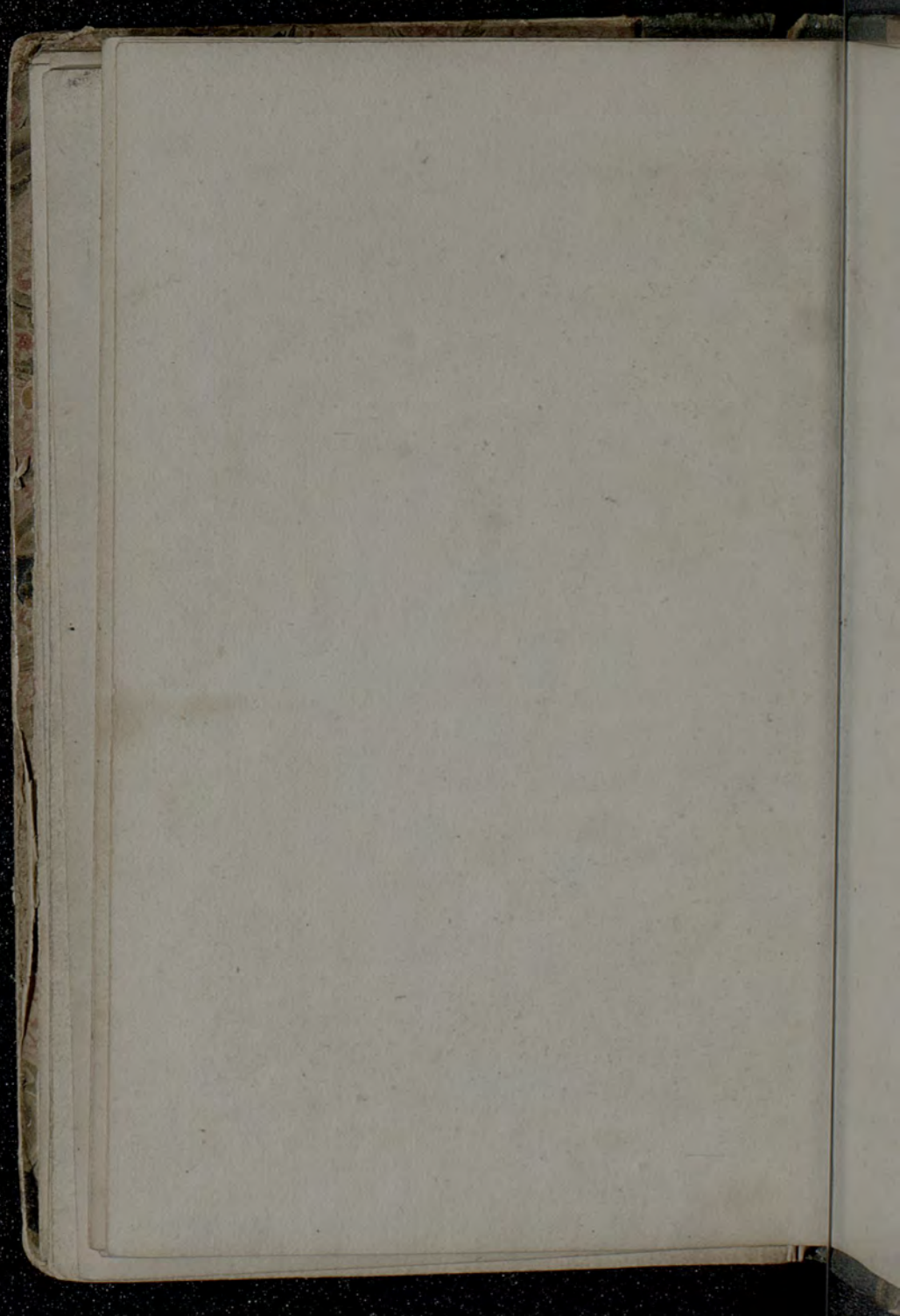
“ HE has received the reward of “ desertion,” said Frederick ; “ as for “ you, comrades, I trust you will profit “ by his example, least you should experience the same fate.”

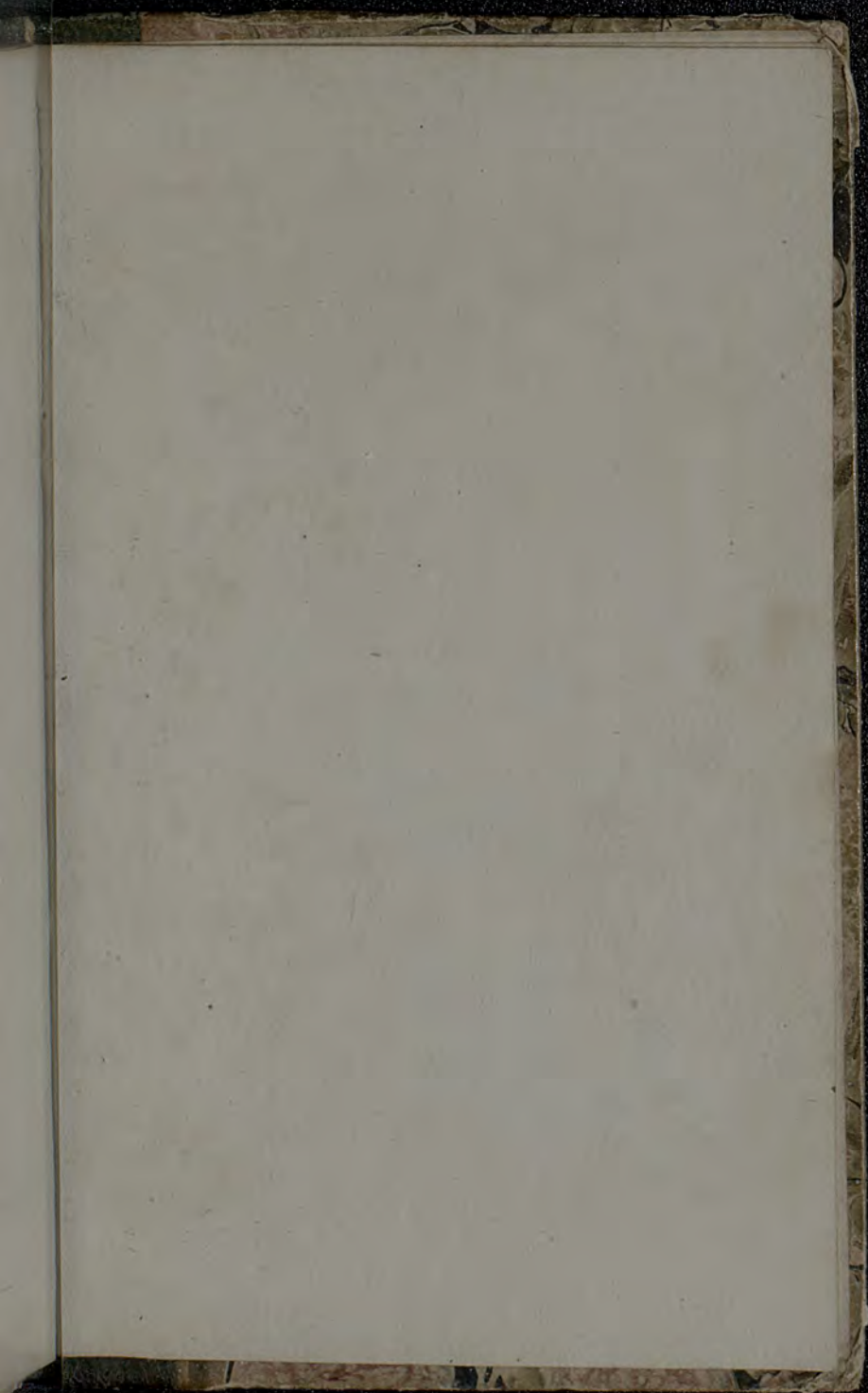
“ HA ! ha ! ha !” said Julius, rising, and taking off his bandage ; “ I sup-

"JULIUS IN DANGER!"



"Fire!"





"ALIVE, AND WELL!"



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"perm"

"as I

"you

"capta

Cham & B

“ pose, now that I am shot, I may be
“ permitted to go and amuse myself
“ as I please until to-morrow, when
“ you know it is my turn to play the
“ captain !”

FINIS.

*Picture too many.
in this 'book.*

Oliver & Boyd, Printers, Edinburgh.

of ordinary people

and you I am glad I may be
admitted to go and enquire myself
as I shall find tomorrow when
you know it is my turn to play the

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