

and bastions, and long lines of rampart; and there was one of the commonest of the Littorinidæ,—*Littorina littoralis*, that in one of its varieties is of a rich yellow color, and in another of a bluish-green tint,—which supplied me with soldiers enough to execute all the evolutions figured and described in the “Medley.” The warmly-hued yellow shells represented Britons in their scarlet,—the more dingy ones, the French in their uniforms of dirty blue; well-selected specimens of *Purpura lapillus*, just tipped on their backs with a speck of paint, blue or red, from my box, made capital dragoons; while a few dozens of the slender pyramidal shells of *Turritella communis* formed complete parks of artillery. With such unlimited stores of the *materiel* of war at my command, I was enabled, more fortunate than Uncle Toby of old, to fight battles and conduct retreats, assault and defend, build up fortifications and then batter them down again, at no expense at all; and the only drawback on such a vast amount of advantage that I could at first perceive, consisted in the circumstance, that the shore was exceedingly open to observation, and that my new amusements, when surveyed at a little distance, did greatly resemble those of the very young children of the place, who used to repair to the same arenaceous banks and shingle-beds, to bake dirt-pies in the sand, or range lines of shells on little shelves of stone, imitative of the crockery cupboard at home. Not only my school-fellows, but also some of their parents, evidently arrived at the conclusion that the two sets of amusements—mine and those of the little children—were identical; for the elder folk said, that “in their time, poor Francie had been just such another boy, and every one saw what he had come to;” while the younger, more energetic in their manifestations, and more intolerant of folly, have even paused in their games of marbles, or ceased spinning their tops, to hoot at me from a safe distance. But the campaign went on; and I solaced myself by reflecting, that neither the big folk nor the little folk could bring a battalion of troops across a bridge of boats in the face of an enemy, or knew that a regular fortification could be constructed on only a regular polygon.