on account of his hardy and trustworthy character.

His most usual duty was to drop in shore with the night tide, amuse himself at times by landing and beating up the Frenchman's quarters; for their coast, like the wall of a beleaguered town, was lined with sentinels ensconced in guard-houses and sentry-boxes. A fog, however, was the special delight of the Ariel. Then would she venture, under cover of the dense atmosphere, even within the very harbor of the enemy, intercepting luggers, schooners, fishing-smacks, and boarding them, often more with a view of demonstrating the Briton's rule over the sea, than for any purpose of capture. In most cases the crews, of the captured fishermen especially, were ordered aboard the Ariel and brought down to its little cabin, plied with grog sufficiently, and then pumped, with all a sailor's adroitness, of what little information they could give. This procured, they were set afloat on board their own smack again, and allowed to return to harbor. In the course of a few years, such was the frequency of fogs and the activity of the Ariel, that there was not a fisherman on the coast who did not know Lieutenant Neville, who did not partake of his grog, and who did not retail or invent to him stories which no doubt still exist among the treasured learning of the Admiralty. They were grateful to him; he was as dreaded and admired as a corsair; and when a French fishing-boat sailed, it would as soon set out without its rudder or its nets as without a new bulletin, or some tid-bit in the way of news for the captain of the Ariel.

The year 1814 brought orders of a more perilous nature than usual to the British officers. A packet of printed proclamations addressed to the French people was put into his hands, with the desire that they might be distributed along the coast. They inveighed against Napoleon, gave a summary account of the Emperor's disasters, and invited the population to throw off the yoke of the usurper, and return to the allegiance of their ancient sovereigns. To have awaited thick weather, and to have distributed them among the fishing-boats, would have been the safest way of executing the task; but sailors are not given to such constructions of their orders, and as the military were among those chiefly addressed, the object, evidently, was to transmit them to the several depots and guard-houses on the coast. This was, indeed, for whoever undertook the enterprise, going into the lion's mouth. Lieutenant Neville would not intrust it to any under his command, but resolved himself to execute the task, which he deemed of the greatest importance.

He caused himself, accordingly, to be put ashore, on a certain night, northward considerably of Etables, where the shore rises from beach and sand-hills into cliffs. His boat he ordered to await him on the morning of the following night, off a little cape several leagues distant, northward from the spot of his disembarkment. He soon began, under cover of the darkness, to execute his mission. The heights were thick with batteries, but the long survey of them, which he had taken from sea, served as a guide to his steps. Those he at first approached were not thickly manned; neither the troops of the line nor the artillery occupied them, but merely the national guard of the neighboring town. Here his task was not difficult. Every empty sentry-box, or rather sentry-house, he garnished with a proclamation. To the doors of the very guard-houses, to the barriers of the batteries, he affixed them, and even on the carriages of the French cannon were found in the morning these sensible traces of an enemy's visit. The alarm was given; scouts and parties went out in every direction, though some of the national guard declared that none save the enemy of mankind himself could have ventured over ditch, parapet, chevaux de frise, and sentinel to achieve the sticking up a few pieces of paper.

The greatest difficulty of the gallant lieutenant was to pass Boulogne, and to gain the coast to the northward of that town. The commandant, an inveterate Bonapartist, made use of every exertion to catch the spy, whom he vowed in his soul to hang in revenge for the shattered fortunes of Napoleon. The laws of warfare gave him but too good a right to inflict this