

school, his lessons seemed to absorb all his thoughts. But he was a gentle, pure-minded, obliging boy, and if he had but few fast friends, he certainly had not a single enemy. It was to the credit of both the brothers that, however widely they might differ in taste and disposition, they were absolutely loyal and devoted to each other.

As we have seen, it had from the first been part of Arthur's ambition to figure as a "gate-boy." The office, which was held for a week, carried with it some substantial advantages. The holder got off half his lessons; he saw something of the outer world—or, at least, of people who came from the outer world; he could enjoy a friendly chat with visitors, and there was always the chance of being the recipient of a friendly "tip." Besides all this, there was the feeling of importance and the sense of power that the guardianship of those shining keys conferred.

But this coveted position had to be earned. The boy who would be at the gate during the week was required to discharge a somewhat trying task upon the Sunday, and it was a task which Arthur, with all his quickness, found himself more than once unequal to. To understand this, it is necessary to describe the quaint "order of service" which is carried out at the Blue Coat every Sunday afternoon, and to which crowds of visitors and friends delight to flock.

The chapel—if such it can be called—is a long, narrow room immediately over the dining-hall. One side, pierced with several large windows, which look out on the courtyard, is straight; but the other is



THE SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE.

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bow-shaped, thus forming a very shallow apse. In the middle of this wall—where the room is widest—is the organ; and on either side of it tiers of narrow seats are arranged for the accommodation of the children. In front of the organ is a desk for the reader, and facing this, across a narrow space of floor, are two imposing chairs for the presiding governors. Behind the governors there is accommodation for a considerable number of visitors, the seats being again raised in tiers, thus facing those occupied by the children. At one end of the long room a space is set apart for the immediate friends and relatives of the pupils.