

and now seemed interminable. These recollections were somewhat abruptly closed by the shrill ringing of the school-bell, when, with countenances grievously lengthened, the laughing little group retired, and as Edward slowly followed, his eyes fixed on the single ivied ruin which for so many years he had watched morning and evening with delight, he felt like the pilgrims of old, that he had fulfilled a sacred duty.

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## CHAPTER III.

THE Christmas festivities were now at an end; the spring term had commenced, and the streets of Cambridge began once again to swarm with Gownsmen. Edward accordingly resumed his favorite station beside Mr. Isaac Walton, on the box seat of the Telegraph, and set out for Trinity, in company with a fellow collegian named Sowerby, a hard-reading man, and one to whom he had been previously introduced. The conversation turned, of course, upon Wranglers, Medallists and Prize-men, for the Examinations were shortly to take place, and all Cambridge was in uproar.

On reaching his rooms, he found a good dinner waiting for him, and, to assist his digestion, a profusion of Christmas bills, from the wine merchant, upholsterer, confectioner, coach-maker, milliner, college-cook, tailor, shoemaker, and, above all, an enormous account, two columns folio, from the courteous Mr. Gee himself. By way of consolation, his Gyp informed him that during his absence, these worthies had been particularly urgent; a symptom of nervousness on their part, which quite paralyzed Edward; for he had received but one hundred pounds from his father, in the hope that that sum would be more than sufficient to answer all demands; whereas the accounts now before him, from October to December 10th, amounted to £684 0s. 0d.

Edward was not naturally dissipated or extravagant; circumstances alone had made him so; but as this trait, however characteristic, would go but a short way towards payment, he was compelled to keep it to himself. Meantime the news of his arrival spread like wildfire throughout Cambridge, and the very next morning his rooms were besieged by tradesmen, all anxious to enquire after his health; and also to ascertain (but merely to ascertain by way of conversation,) the safety of their respective bills. Mr. Gee was particularly affectionate; so much so, that he almost began to be