

abroad," answered Hythe. "His governor doesn't seem to mind having him taken off his hands for a bit!"

Ayscough's feelings on receiving the intelligence impelled him to stand on his head. And though he was assisted to his feet with a vigour which conveyed to him that the Captain's study was not the sort of place in which to indulge in antics of that kind, Hythe's hand rested on his little fag's shoulder an instant longer than it need have done.

"Where are we going to, Hythe?" he breathed.

"Oh, lots of places!" the Captain answered. "I'm coming to stay a night at your place, and we'll make out a topping route together!"

Ayscough's departure had to be expedited with the flat of a bat after that, a method of upbringing which he was used to, and which was calculated to instil healthier sentiments into his mind than if he had gathered that, in that lonely home life in front of him, the Captain of St. Osyth's was really grateful for his affection.

But nothing happens quite as we think, and there were indications the minute the two friends came out into the open together, that Hythe was to have not one, but several homes, open to him in the future. He didn't