

than doubtful, when a
to demolish the old
ereupon the polecat,
e a sally, but he was
a moment later game
a grip which would
. The odour which
ts to get at him, and
dogs. On the con-
effluvia would greet
cks would rise, and
nary excitement.

gan at school in the
town of Hamilton,
the holidays, one of
visit at home, he had
his aim. He dilated
the pleasures of shoot-
a crack shot, that we
longing to be pos-
ng my schoolfellows,
e, was made for this
appointed to super-
nds. The starter of
one of the honourable
un, in the estimation
exploits. I also was
father was a military
serve my Queen and
ed to know more of
common crowd. The

third—and here the sense of my countrymen was exhibited—was selected for his shrewdness in making bargains, for although he never spent any money or brought playthings from home, yet always before the term was over his stock of tops, marbles, bats, and balls exceeded all others. What he was in boyhood, he is now in mature years—a wealthy but still hard-working successful foreign merchant.

Having secretly made enquiries, one Saturday afternoon we sallied forth to visit a tinkering gunsmith. Long and serious was our conference; at length a bargain was struck—I might rather say that we obtained three bargains; namely, an old and dilapidated gun-stock, the lock of an antiquated horse-pistol, and a barrel, red with rust, but declared to be of most superior quality. The smith undertook to put these together, and have them ready for use that day week.

The intermediate time passed slowly. Friday had arrived, when a most serious and previously unforeseen difficulty arose. Who was to go for the gun? All shirked this responsible duty; to carry fire-arms, even through back streets, in broad daylight was more than any one dared. First one was saddled with the task, then another, each in his turn being accused of cowardice when he refused. Angry words ensued, and even a battle in which one of the combatants got a severe black eye. At length we determined to cast lots to decide who was to perform the objectionable office, and the unlucky number fell to me. School was dismissed at the usual hour on the important Saturday; my companions were to assemble in a little copse in a neighbour-