

though, will you?" cried the Captain with a heartiness it was pleasant to hear.

"No, my boy," the Doctor answered. "The trustees may, or may not, have the power to appoint someone else in my place—I hear they want a Mr. FitzHerbert—but that is a question they will have to settle with my lawyers."

"This Mr. FitzHerbert, sir—whoever he is—must be an awful outsider if he takes the post over your head," said the Captain hotly.

"I know nothing about Mr. FitzHerbert personally—beyond the fact that he is a Cambridge man," said the Doctor with a curious slighting inflection in his voice. "My own sympathies and connections, as you know, have always been with Oxford. But, as I said, I shall never retire voluntarily."

"You'll have the school with you to a man, sir!" said the Captain, and his worst enemy couldn't help liking him just then. "We could get new trustees any day but we could never get another Head-master like you!"

"Thank you, my boy," said the Doctor, a little catch of feeling in his voice. "The school's loyalty I am proud to say has never yet failed me. I have mentioned the matter to you thus early because, in view of my intention to fight the case, it cannot fail to attain a widespread publicity. I should rather you heard