

REMINISCENCES OF CHARTERHOUSE—II.

BY AN OLD CARTHUSIAN.

*Being a series of Short Sketches descriptive of Public School Life in England.**(Continued from page 501, Vol. II.)*

I SLEPT soundly until half-past seven the next morning, and could have slept on all day, I think, had not my companions chosen that particular hour to wake themselves. I was dozing in a delicious, semi-conscious state when the death knell of departed sleep sounded, Bang! Crash! I started up to see my water bottle lying in atoms upon the floor, and the soaking sponge that had done the mischief drenching my pillow through and through.

"Go it," said one of my companions; "that's good! breaking your water-bottle the first morning. I don't mind betting you will be swished."

"Humbug," I replied, angrily, "you did it, you fool!"

"By jove, you're festive,* young fellow; I see you want something else at your head. Just you get out of bed, clean up that mess you have made, and give me back my sponge—and" he added, looking at his watch—"I should advise you to get up, or you will be late. I suppose you know you have to be down by eight?"

I told him I did not know it.

"What!" he answered, in well feigned astonishment, "did not L— tell you?"

"No," I replied, "he did not."

"Then you may thank me for taking the trouble to wake you, and saving you from getting into a jolly good row!"

I knew well enough that he was trying to "green" me—that a new boy was not expected to be down earlier than an old boy—so I made no further answer, but having by this time picked up the broken glass, I jumped into bed again.

"What! into bed again? It takes a good deal to wake you, more cold water is about the only thing to do it, I suppose."

I told him I had no intention of getting up until he did.

"Well, mind," he replied, "you do not forget to say I woke you when L— has you up for being late."

At nine prayers were read, "adsum" being first called over; all boys who were not present to answer to their names were afterwards told that they might look forward to an extra hour in school on the following half holiday.

Breakfast over, we went up to chapel; all the old boys were scattered about the cloisters meeting their old school-fellows and discussing with them their holidays and their prospects for the coming quarter, amusing themselves too frequently at the expense of the new boys. Those who were dressed in any but the regular fashion came in for the greatest amount of "teasing" *i.e.*, those who wore Scotch caps, or light coloured ties and coats, it being the custom at all English public schools to wear round or top hats and black ties and coats only.

It was weary work answering over

* "Festive," Carthusian for "cheeky."