

and disappeared, escorted by a couple of chums who in trying to make him feel better, of course made things worse.

One more single name, fortunately not mine, and the crowd was called in, rushing upstairs half in confidence but still half doubting. A crowd of friends managed to rush in before the door could be closed, and filled the hall downstairs, laughing, talking, dancing and in other ways getting rid of the feeling of tension caused by the long suspense.

We, the successful candidates, in the meantime marched upstairs and filed into the teachers' room, hiding our nervousness by poking each other in the ribs or whispering some remarks about one of the teachers.

A solemn silence soon reigned in the room and the Rector (Principal) commenced a speech of congratulation and announced the results. The certificates were produced and each signed by its fortunate owner, who then received the congratulations of the teachers and examiners. This over, we rushed out, jumped or tumbled down the stairs into scores of arms amid shouts of triumph, and, without touching ground, found ourselves out of the building, where the noise and tumult was continued on a larger scale by all who had not managed to get in.

The first goal was reached. I was now a student, no more an ordinary school pupil, and could mark my visiting cards with Phil. nat. stud., standing for philosophiae naturalis studens, or student of natural philosophy, since I was going to study science. I shall not attempt to describe the pride of various uncles and cousins and aunts during the subsequent holidays when they could introduce me to their friends as "our new student." My father was a practical man and did not miss an opportunity in showing me that I had not yet conquered the whole world but was only entering on a new phase of my education. Though a farmer, he valued learning, and knew that all I had acquired so far was only a foundation upon which the real structure was yet to be built.

For the next few weeks my mother and sisters were marking all my clothes and getting me a full stock of all that would be required for my wardrobe. In the meantime my father consulted some of my old teachers and others competent to judge as to the best University to send me to. There were four to choose from, Amster-