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"THERE IS NOT A BOY HERE WHO ECHOES YOUR UNGENTLEMANLY SENTIMENTS."

NED DARROW;  
OR,  
THE YOUNG CASTAWAYS.

CHAPTER I.

THE LONG VACATION.

"ANOTHER cheer for the long vacation, boys! Hurrah!"  
The scene was the play-grounds of Professor Ballentine's grammar school for boys at Ridgeland, and the hour five o'clock in the afternoon of a glorious day in late June.

The occasion was one filled with more than ordinary interest and excitement to the dozen or more lads whose voices joined in an enthusiastic huzza in reply to the sentiment proposed by the best scholar and most popular boy in the academy, Ned Darrow.

"And one for the dear old school and our mysterious journey of to-morrow," supplemented the voice of Dick Wilson.

Again the campus rang with the hearty cheers of the little coterie.

Dick Wilson had struck the key-note of current thought and interest when he referred to "our mysterious journey."

For several years preceding, as some of the older students of the even twenty constituting the school membership well remembered, at every long vacation Professor Ballentine had prepared for his classes a pleasant surprise.