

# Schools and Colleges

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School Reopens September 9th, 1914

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REV. GEO. P. WOOLLCOMBE, M.A. (Oxon.), Headmaster,

fields, the path which led in somewhat roundabout fashion towards Winchfield. This was her goal. She cound catch a down-train which would land her in a short time at Basingcound catch a down-train which would land her in a short time at Basingstoke, and from there she could get an express to Vauxhall, which would not stop en route. She counted on thus euding any attempt which might be made to prevent her leaving the neighbourhood of the "Chase." If her absence were discovered within the next hour or so, Fleet Station would certainly be considered the most likely spot to find her—and the up train from there to London would be decided upon as her mode of transit. By going down the line first she believed she might put the pursuit off the scent—but she had five or six miles to walk before she could reach Winchfield Station, and she had to step briskly if she wished to carry out her plan successfully. Already that morning she had tramped several miles in her search for Laurie, but the resolution to go right away and disappear upheld her now in the long walk and enabled her to triumph over mere physical weakness.

It was a weary Fenella who left the train at Vauxhall, quite unnoticed among the throng of people, and seated herself in the road-car which carried her to Chelsea and her friend, Janet Speer.

Janet was one of those attractive

ed herself in the road-car which carried her to Chelsea and her friend, Janet Speer.

Janet was one of those attractive personalities who impel the confidence of everyone they meet. A Bohemian, pure and simple, refusing to accept responsibilities of any sort whatever, she went through life unencumbered by cares, carrying only a light heart which created laughter out of all things, great and small. It must be conceded that she enjoyed perfect health and had a splendid physique, and with these no particular good looks to bring a troublesome romance into her itinerary. Her whimsical brunette face with the uplifted eyebrows of a born critic, and the full red lips and sharp black eyes denot ing the power to appraise and assimilate the beauties of Art, might not gain admiration but would never pass unnoticed, for wit and cleverness were there writ large. there writ large.

ANET and Fenella had been friends at the fashionable school where the one disdainfully taught the younger girls the rudiments of drawing and painting, and the other assistin the mathematical and language

Janet was five years older than Fenella and took the lead when they went out together for an afternoon's holiday. Excursions to queer out-of went out together for an afternoon's holiday. Excursions to queer out-of the-way exhibitions or museums, or a matinee of some French or Bernard Shawish play, selected by the girl artist, enlarged Fenella's views, and she gained an insight into a phase of life which was quite new to her at the quaint foreign restaurants in the City or tea-gardens on the outskirts of London, which Janet chose by preference when the girls were lavish enough to feast together as a wind-up to their amusements.

Janet had not seen Fenella for some months. They had not corresponded, for the former never wrote of her own accord and seldom answered letters—so it had seemed useless. But on a certain occasion in Janet's studio—skyed at the top of a block of great mansions—Fenella had remarked how quiet it was there above the river, a sort of sancturary from the turmoil and worry of

ella had remarked how quiet it was there above the river, a sort of sanctuary from the turmoil and worry of life, and Janet had answered, "Treat it as such, dear girl. If you ever want a place to lie down and sleep in, please come here. Janet Speer will always have a hunk of bread and a cup of tea to offer you and no questions to bother you. That's no bunkum, Fen, but honest truth."

"I shall take you at your word some day," Fenella answered, and now she was putting Janet's offer to the test. The stairs seemed interminable as she went up and up towards the roof At last she reached Janet's door, only to read, with dismay, by the flickering gas jet in the passage, these words written on a large sheet of paper and hung on the knocker—"Gone out. Won't be back till midnight. J. S."

The message was characteristic and

#### Schools and Colleges

#### WESTBOURNE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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