

tion of the sum of — per term of five months, for board and tuition.

It was some time before his mother could quite reconcile herself to the idea of her son's departure from home, and more than once was inclined to rescind the order and allow him to remain a little longer, but her brother's argument overcame her scruples, and the boy's outfit was pushed forward as rapidly as circumstances would admit.

He enjoyed the notion of going away amazingly, because, as he expressed it, "a fellow is more of a man when he has to look out for himself, you know." Usually he receives the congratulations of his fellows on the subject with becoming gravity. On such occasions some rash youngster, envying Phil his prospects for fun, would inform another, confidentially, that "the first chance he'd do something," and with divers wise shakes of the head, "guess they'd have to send him away too."

On the day previous to the memorable first of September, the day fixed for his departure from home, behold Phil, important and excited, trying vainly to do several things at once—in the endeavor, interfering with his elders, much to their discomfort, but at the same time earnestly assuring them that "he was helping," of course.

At length the long, long day, as Philip thought—all too short in his mother's mind, drew to a close, and everything that a too fond parent could provide for her boy's comfort was ready to pack. The trunks and different articles were all in the sitting-room waiting for Mrs. Blair's deft fingers to arrange them, when Phil, accompanied by Reggy, who had been trotting patiently after his brother, came in. No one there but themselves. Instantly he decided that with the little fellow's assistance he would have one of those trunks packed in less than no time; to think, was to act, and smiling, as he thought of the agreeable surprise he was preparing for his mother, went to work with such vigor that in almost less time than it takes to tell it, had one trunk full—I won't say packed, and he and his brother sitting on the lid, cheerfully endeavoring to shut it.

"Let us sit down with a bump," said Reggy, who had been looking on in silent wonderment at his brother's marvellous celerity.

They did so; something crackles.