

THE WILDERNESS CASTAWAYS

“Why did his father ever let him grow into such a cad, anyway? What he needs is a good sound thrashing every day for a month. That would cure him.”

“Fact is, I don't think Densmore ever knew much about him until recently. Too many irons in the fire to give much thought to his family. This steamship company's his pet scheme just now, but he's the head of half a dozen other big things, and even when he's home his mind is all taken up with business. He left the boy's training to the mother, and it's the old story of an only child. She's coddled and indulged and pampered him till she's spoiled him. He failed in the final tests at school this year — he attends a select boys' school uptown somewhere — and the head master wrote Densmore that there was no use sending him back unless he took more interest in the work, adding something to the effect that he seemed strangely void of ambition, never obeyed rules unless convenient, and was a disturbing element in the school. I think that brought Densmore to his senses about his son's condition.”