

That the members of the latter did not receive the young gentleman's advent with any marked enthusiasm, need not be set down to any particular snobbishness on their part. To the majority of them, the fact that his father was a tailor mattered as little as if he had been a prince. The really important point was whether he was likely to be good at the games or not. And as his physique didn't open out any dazzling prospect of this, such interest as he aroused may be ascribed to the fact that, coming as he did in the middle of the term, his presence offered an agreeable break in the general monotony. Even the nickname which he received on the first day, and which stuck to him more or less during the whole of his school career, was something of an accident.

Being put through his scholastic paces by Mr. Warre, the House Master, his accomplishments were found to qualify him for a high place in the Fourth. They might even at a pinch have qualified him for the Fifth, but a glance at the boy's slight frame and a thought of the young giants among whom in that case his lot would be cast, influenced the kindly House Master's decision. As it was even, some members of the Fourth could almost have made two of him in point of size.

His examination over he was taken by Mr.