

forced to leave the school on account of one of his pranks. Mr. Magrath had a dog of very unprepossessing aspect, and a constant source of fear and annoyance to the pupils. By dint of dividing his lunch with the dog, Nicholas however was able to take liberties which others dared not attempt.

An apartment of the school-room known as the "master's sanctum," contained a pile of slates and books, surrounded by ink-jars, and some eatables so placed that they were beyond the dog's reach. Burke, having gathered together some slates and tin cans, attached them to the tail of Magrath's dog. Away ran the animal, with a deafening din, until, penetrating the sanctum, he overturned, with a crash, the crazy pyramid just described. Magrath sallied forth in a state bordering on frenzy, and spying Nicholas in the class-room, immediately cited him before his terrible tribunal, where without judge or jury the sentence was passed. Nicholas was ordered to be stripped, and placed upon the back of Magrath junior, in order to afford facilities for the application of the rod already in pickle. Retreat was hopeless; Nicholas, however, was equal to the occasion, and, placing firmly between his teeth a pin, to be used as a wasp wields his sting, he awaited the chastisement. A blow fell heavily; the sufferer seemed to bow beneath the rod, and to kiss the back of Magrath junior's neck. The latter screeched, and, dropping his burden, ran down Buttermilk Lane, uttering warwhoops of distress, while Nicholas, the schoolmaster, and most of the pupils followed in hot pursuit. Nicholas, after running for some time, managed to evade the school-master, and betook himself home. Thus ended his term of school under the tutorship of Mr. Magrath.

He next attended a school in charge of Dr. O'Toole, and made great progress in all his studies. While there he became infatuated with the Temple of Thespis, and for weeks was, as they say in theatrical language, "stage struck." This arose, no doubt, from the fact that an amateur company in this school was organized to play before the public, and in which company Nicholas' efforts as an actor met with great success. Miss Burke informs us that a friend of the family happened to visit her mother at that time, and astonished her by saying that he had been kept spell-bound by the performance of her son in Flood's Lane Theatre.