

I was disappointed on waking the next morning, to find the weather threatened to be nasty. My spirits have always varied more or less with the barometer, and, on that day, I hoped the glass would have stood high and the day been bright and warm.

Excitement, however, kept me from dwelling upon any sad thoughts, and when at last the moment arrived for me to wish my people good-bye, I found that it was they who needed comforting, not I.

On reaching the railway station, I looked anxiously about me for any Charterhouse boys; those that I saw were all new; I could easily tell that by the sheepish look they all wore. I did not take the slightest interest in them, indeed I felt a sort of contempt for them, and wished to be taken for an old boy. With this object in view, I strutted about with that air of jaunty confidence invariably assumed by the smaller fry of a public school. They all looked at me so respectfully that I felt my acting had produced the desired effect.

No old boys were to be seen at all. I afterwards learnt it was not "etiquette" for an old boy to return by an early train. The last train of all was invariably the fullest.

The entrance examination was to take place at three o'clock in the afternoon, by which time all new boys were expected to be present.

In about an hour, we arrived at Godalming, and immediately I asked my way to Mr. L——'s house, which I had been told was to be mine. Mr. L—— was at luncheon; he shook hands with me very graciously and introduced me to his sister, who lived with him and looked after the household affairs. Sitting in silence at the table were two other new boys, to whom I was also introduced.

The luncheon was decidedly a dull one; we all felt very awkward; for my part, I was not the least inclined

either to eat or to help Miss L—— in her endeavours to get up a conversation between us new boys. Mr. L—— hoped we should get on, like the school and *his house*, by which, I fancy he meant himself, and then relapsed into silence. Miss L—— expressed similar wishes in different words, and then relapsed into silence also.

I was delighted when Mr. L—— got up, and told us he would shew us the way to the school buildings.

The cloisters, as we passed through them, presented a curious and amusing sight. Scattered in small groups in every direction, parents were to be seen discussing the school and its merits, in connection with their sons, whom they had brought down, and were now awaiting outside the examination room. The noise was great; all appeared to be speaking at once, and at the tops of their voices. All having one anxiety in common, strangers conversed freely with strangers. Here an anxious mother was to be seen, doing her utmost to hook her son on to somebody else's son, in the hope that they might "chum" together. There was to be seen a boy being praised for having taken a good place. In another direction a father and son were to be seen, walking in perfect silence, and at a brisk pace towards the station. The expression of bitter disappointment upon the faces of each told unmistakably what had occurred.

On entering the big school we were filed off to different examiners. I was told to sit down on a form made in the shape of a horse-shoe, and called by that name, and await my turn. I happened to be close to the master, and could thus easily overhear the examination as it proceeded.

I remember one little boy—he was not above three feet nine inches—who was very amusing; he had a cunning twinkle in his eye, and appeared