

because if he succeeded in fulfilling them he would have ceased to be himself, or—thoughtless. The time had sped rapidly away and he was still engrossed with his own thoughts; there had been some serious breaks; the machinery to be examined; questions to be asked about different places they passed; explanations to be made to his brother on matters wherein he was as wise as the little fellow, but gravely made, nevertheless, with an air of intense wisdom that in itself was edifying, if the explanations were not. He was still thinking over his resolutions, debating in his mind whether he would write them out, frame and hang them up in his room, like the good boy he read about in the last story; when his Uncle called him to come forward to the bow of the vessel as she was entering a broad reach, where the river widened to almost the dignity of a lake.

"There is the school, Phil," he said, pointing to an island that seemed to rest on the waters of the river in its widest part. It was fully two miles distant, but a group of buildings showed through the trees, one very much larger than the rest being the schoolhouse proper, and, as they rapidly neared, a few boys could be seen walking about.

"Well, what do you think of it?" as Phil eyed the place in grave silence. "What do you say, little man?" turning to Reg, but the youngster waited to hear Phil's opinion.

"O, it's jolly," he finally condescended to reply.

"Jolly," said Reg, bringing his lips together with a snap that seemed to say, "We've said it and it must be so," the word when said resembling the explosion of a fire-cracker.

Just then the steamer took a broad sheer toward the shore, and in a few minutes they glided gently up to the one wharf of a large village, almost a town, situated on the river bank nearly opposite the island that MR. MOREL HAD POINTED OUT AS THE SCHOOL.

CHAPTER VII.

AT this point some dozen passengers, besides themselves, and a small quantity of freight were landed; among the former, Philip noticed two boys, apparently his own age, standing on the wharf near a gentleman who was giving orders about some luggage that was near them.

"Perhaps those fellows are going to the school, too," he thought,