

"I suppose it must be," said Arthur, taking it, while Herbie watched him with wistful eyes. It ran as follows—

"Mr. Reginald Leslie would be glad to see Master Arthur Forrester this afternoon at the rectory—at three o'clock, if it would be convenient to him to come. Mr. R. Leslie is unable to leave his sofa, so he hopes Master Forrester will excuse his want of ceremony."

"How strange!" said Arthur. "I wonder if that is Ernest Leslie's brother, and what he can want with me! However, Herbie, don't you think I had better go; he might become a friend and help us away from this hateful place."

"Yes, Arthur, do go," said Herbie instantly.

"Very well, Simon, say I'll be there."

Simon nodded and went off with his message, leaving the two boys not a little astonished.

"I wonder if Ernest has been talking about me."

"I should think so," was Herbie's reply.