I can remember, I was in boyish ecstacies most of the way. The thought of the dear home I had left, or the griping pangs of homesickness, had no significance for me then. As I watched the grand Hudson, as we flew along its banks, I thought of the swims, of the boating and skating to be had. Ah, reckless youth! I little knew what time would bring forth.

We arrived at Rivoli late in the evening, and getting off the train we saw a man approaching, whom my mother took for an omnibus-driver, and asked him if he "would drive us to Dr. Spark's School." He answered, "Yes, Madam; I can, and will. I am Dr. Spark." My mother apologized frantically, and I had some secret forebodings as to my future. However, my mother resolved upon being agreeable, and "showed me up beautifully." I couldn't blame her for the mistake about the omnibus, as his forte was never in "style," and on off-days he did resemble an antiquated herdic-driver; and this day (when I appeared) was one of them. We soon arrived at the school—several large white buildings, with a jolly large campus. I was soon introduced to the matron, and installed in my alcove. My mother left me the next day, and with tears in her eyes "hoped that I would be happy." I can see her now.

Alas! hardly had the "mater" left than the howling pack of small boys crowded and pushed to get a glimpse and a question at the "new boy." I stood this pretty well, but they ran it too far. Now, I never could take a joke easily, being born with a hasty temper. This "stuffing" process made me wrathful and indignant to such an extent that I proceeded to punch the nearest fellow's head, and as I never did succeed in choosing a smaller boy than myself to pummel, I got licked. I rushed to my alcove, head aching, and in a raging spirit. This was nothing as to what I endured later. After "study-hour" the boys again crowded around me, and pumped me to their hearts' content. I was an easy victim, and they had, I know, a beautiful time with me. Some of the questions resembled these: "Where do you live, teeth?" (I then having quite prominent tusks.) "You will pitch into Blake, will you?" "Got any sisters?" "Well, you young freshie, you've got some pluck, I see," said a big upper boy, as he carelessly surveyed me. That fellow was my firm friend through the time he was there.

We were soon marched off to bed. Then my trials began. We slept in dormitories. There were three; each held about twenty fellows, with an upper form boy as captain. Each fellow had a little stall, or alcove, as his bedroom. These alcoves were nothing more than stalls partitioned off with a thin wall, which was only about eight feet high, so that you could, by stepping upon your bed, hold a conversation with your next neighbor; or, a missile or a cup of water could be unostentatiously dropped down upon an innocent sleeper in the next apartment. Well, in this case, I was the innocent would-be sleeper, but it was not to be. Scarcely had the lights been put out when I felt a stream of fearfully cold water coming from above, and completely saturating me and my bed, making it utterly worthless to sleep on; so, with a muttered sigh of revenge, I proceeded to investigate the inside, to see if it was thoroughly wet through. It was, sure enough and thus I had to pass the night. Oh! then the pangs of homesickness, those indescribable pains, came upon me with withering force. Oh for my mother, or a big brother to help me out of this! None came. Several raids were made upon me, in which I had the exceeding pleasure of breaking a pitcher of cold water on one youth's head, and of playfully spanking some small boys in my artless thirteen-year-old way. But I soon got to know the fellows, and having been taught to restrain my temper, they let up, and I helped to vigorously squirt water and to raid the next new boy with the rest.

We had drill three times a week, and trials of the "awkward squad" were many. I soon graduated from that, and was made a regular company man. How well I remember my first appointment as a corporal, and donning my two stripes. Nothing under heaven could be so great an honor to me as to be a corporal.