

46 The letter A. However, the teacher, began to flog him where he was, & the boy catching hold of the cane, (which had a slight bend at the end) was pulled away, & left a very big gash between the thumb and forefingers. The boy was then dragged from his seat & over the desk, and was mercilessly flogged. Another was a boy named Crowe. I can recall his first day at school when asked his name said "Master my name is Michael John Crowe. For something or other that had happened on the road home the evening before. He was ordered to hold out his hands alternately to receive twenty strokes. I remember, he held out until about sixteen had been received, & then collapsed, but the teacher finished it off with flogging over the shoulders.

But I think now it was in keeping with the stern punishments inflicted on the wrong doers in every phase of life. The Cat-o-nine tails was an instrument of punishment administered in the Criminal Courts, for offenders. There was no "First Offenders Act"

47 in operation at that time. Very long terms of imprisonment, were given, and the poor unfortunates, were branded for ever as criminals without much hope, of ever recovering their place in society. To day we live in a much more enlightened age, and the purpose is to give a chance for reform. So in school life, a different method of instruction is given & corporal punishment rarely resorted to.

But there was a dread in the very thought of having to go to school, never knowing what was in store for us.

But still we had our pleasures in the school ground. There were the games that we resorted to, & some of them have even continued until the present time. There was "Round about the Mulberry bush on cold & frosty mornings, and Oranges & Lemons, Cherry Chase" a fine game & a favourite. There was the "Running the gauntlet". Not so pleasant for the one who had to do the running. Spinning tops, playing marbles,