

formalistic pedant. It was consolation perhaps to be informed by certain deputed members of the College Council of Governors that only his comparative youth—he was then 27—and bachelor status had stood in the way of his appointment.



*W. S. Littlejohn, with Frank Milner and colleague on Nelson College staff, ready for a tramping excursion. Published in A. E. Pratt's *W. S. Littlejohn* (Melbourne, 1934) p. 84.*

W. S. Littlejohn was to remain for him, more intimately and persuasively than more remote figures like Arnold of Rugby and Sanderson of Oundle, the exemplar of a fine headmaster. His biographer said of Littlejohn:

He dedicates his life to the boys whom he teaches, whose characters he endeavours to mould . . . to educate for life, but not to educate merely for making a living . . . In short, schoolmastering to him is much more than a job to be performed from a specified time to a specified time for a specified sum of money; it is a calling which makes ceaseless demands on time and talents, regardless of the personal comfort of the individual.²²

From Littlejohn's own testimony, in his letters supporting Milner's applications for both Nelson College and Waitaki headships,²³ it is clear that he had good reason to believe that what he called his 'right hand man for five years' shared unequivocally his own fundamental conviction concerning the educative process as self-dedication to a 'calling'. Above all, they shared—or the young assistant was a ready disciple—the view that, especially at a boarding school, activities, athletic, social, recreational, outside the classroom were indispen-