No. 2 THE GREYFRIARS HERALD, 2d. OUT TO-DAY!

(WITH WHICH IS AMALGAMATED "THE DREADNOUGHT.")

No. 755, Vol. XV. New Series.]

ONE PENNY,

[Week Ending November 27th, 1915.



TRACKING DOWN THE SCHOOLBOY SUSPECT!

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER!

A Magnificent New Long Complete School Story, introducing JIMMY SILVER & Co. at Rookwood.

OWEN CONQUEST.

The 1st Chapter.

Down on His Luck.

Jimmy Silver sat alone in his study -the end study in the Fourth Form passage at Rookwood.

His look was downcast and grim. Fellows who knew Jimmy Silver | whether they would come at all. well would hardly have known him at

sat with his hands driven deep into | and Newcome, his chums, who aphis pockets, and his brows knitted peared. Six or seven fellows of the grimly, he looked as if most of the Classical Fourth crowded into the troubles of the world had descended doorway. They were led by Townupon his young shoulders.

He was wondering why his chums did stared moodily at the Fourthnot come to him in his trouble, and | Formers, without speaking.

He started as there was a tramp of that moment. It was unusual to see | feet in the passage. The door of the | you, Silver, you cad!" said Topham.

Jimmy Silver looking anything but | end study was thrown open. cheery and sunny. But now, as he | But it was not Lovell and Raby | Flynn.

send and Topham.

He had been a long time alone. Jimmy Silver did not rise. He

"Here he is!" said Townsend. "Sure, ut's a thate ye are!" said

He had expected this, and he was pre-pared for it. Even Jimmy Silver, had fallen so suddenly upon him. sneer.
The Classical Fourth had condemned Aga him, and even his own pals seemed to have concurred.

"It's proved that you boned the club funds from Newcome's desk," went on Topham. "You may as well own up to it. Have you got anything to say?"

"Nothing," said Jimmy Silver, easier one." breaking his silence at last.

Jimmy shook his head.

"No. I hadn't the least idea that the six quids had gone from Newcome's desk till he told me. I helped "We're got a few words to say to to look for the thief. When we found the pocket-knife blade in the desk, l thought that would help us find the | beast. I hadn't the least idea that |

"And your own pals proved it!" the blade belonged to my own knife.

Jimmy Silver did not speak or move.
He had expected this, and he was prepared for it. Even Jimmy Silver, "Rats!"

"Bosh!"

full of courage as he was, was almost | "Perhaps you'd like to accuse some-overwhelmed by the misfortune that body else?" said Townsend, with a

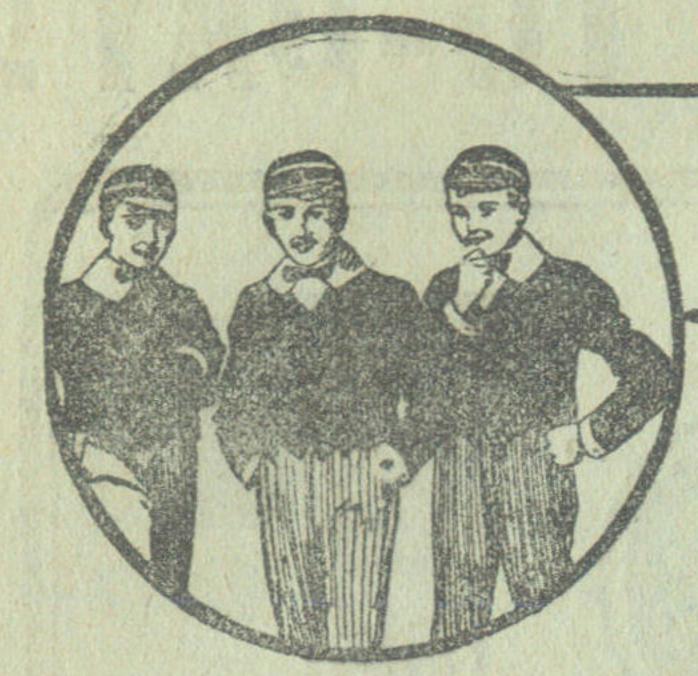
Again Jimmy shook his head.
"No. Somebody did it. I don't know whom. Some beastly cad did it, and left my penknife-blade there to put in on me. That's all I know."

"Oh, draw it mild!" said Topham. "You can't expect us to swallow a yarn like that, you know. Tell us an

"It's in keeping who what you've "You admit it?" ejaculated Town- | been doing !ately, too," said Townsend. "I dare say your boozy friend at the Ship could account for the money."

"Is that what you've come to say to me?" asked Jimmy Silver quietly. "If it is, and if you're finished, you; may clear off!"

"That isn't all," said Topham. (Continued on the next page.)



(Continued from previous page.)

are not wanted in the Fourth Form at | and 'ouns! Yaroooh!" Rookwood. We're going to keep this dark, so that the Modern cads can't | furiously. chip us about having a thief on this side. But we're not going to put up with you. You've got to get out."

Jimmy shrugged his shoulders. done, and you'll be sacked, and you | collared on all sides. know it!" exclaimed Topham.

Now we know who the thief is, we against him. can let the matter drop. Jimmy money, that's all."

penny!"

There was a shout of wrath from the Classical juniors.

"Do you think the club's going to lose the money?" shouted Topham. "Yes; unless they find the thief." "The thief's found," said Towns-

"He's not found. But he's going to be found," said Jimmy Silver grimly. "I'm not going to take this lying down. Whoever did it is going to be bowled out if I can work And if I can't, you needn't trouble about giving me away to the prefects. I shall go to Bulkeley my-

"You-you're going to make it public!" gasped Townsend.

"Yes, if necessary."

"You-you duffer! You'll be expelled from the school!" exclaimed Townsend. "The best thing you can do is to get your friends to help you make up the money, and let it drop."

Jimmy Silver looked curiously at Townsend. The dandy of the Fourth

was strangely agitated.

"It's not going to drop!" said Topham hotly. "If the rotter had a if he won't, he'll be made to! And we'll jolly well begin now, Jimmy | door after him. Silver! You can't brazen it out, you thief Oh, crumbs!"

dictionary whizzed from Jimmy rate!" Silver's hand and caught him under the chin. He staggered back on the juniors behind him in the passage.

"You've got to understand how the, "Kape off my feet, you spalpeen!" matter stands, Jimmy Silver. You've | yelled Flynn, as Topham's boot came been proved to be a thief. Thieves down on his toe. "Oh-oooh! Tare

"Rag him!" yelled Topham

Jimmy Silver jumped up. "Get on with the ragging!" he exclaimed.

The Classical juniors took him at "And if you jolly well don't, we'll his word. There was a fierce rush let the prefects know what you've into the study, and Jimmy Silver was

But the champion fighting-man of "Draw it mild!" said Townsend. | the Fourth was not an easy customer "We don't want to go as far as that. | to tackle, even with the odds heavily

Jimmy Silver's blood was up. He Silver will have to make up the hit out from the shoulder. Topham roared and went over on his back, and "Not a penny!" said Jimmy Silver | Hooker fell across him. Townsend coolly. "I owe the club nothing, and | backed out of the study. But Flynn I shall pay nothing-not a half- and Jones minor fastened on the captain of the Fourth and dragged him

"Collar him!" "Bump him!"

"Rag him !" Jimmy Silver struggled fiercely, hitting out with all his force. But the raggers piled on him, and he was pinned down.

"Bump him!"

"Rag him!" And bumped and ragged Jimmy Silver would certainly have been, but as he struggled in the grasp of Townsend & Co. there was a rush of feet in the passage, and Lovell and Raby and Newcome dashed into the

"Go for 'em!" roared Lovell. "Hold on!" spluttered Townsend. "Chuck it! Oh, my hat!"

Townsend went sprawling along the passage. Topham staggered out after him, with Lovell's knuckles on his

There was a terrific scrap in the study for a few minutes. Then the raggers fairly fled. The Fistical Four were too much for them.

Hooker went last, with Lovell grasping his neck and Newcome his rag of decency, he'd get out! And legs. Hooker landed in the passage with a bump, and Raby slammed the

"Licked the cads!" panted Lovell. "Buck up, Jimmy, old scout! Your Topham uttered a yeil as a Latin old pals are standing by you, at any

The 2nd Chapter. Jimmy Silver's Programme,

clothes. All the Fistical | to try, anyway!" Four were showing signs among the raggers as | that's turned out against you." they retreated down the the end study had come off best.

"So you're standing by me?" said Jimmy at

"Yes, rather!"

yours."

"You've been a jolly long time making up your minds about it!" said Jimmy Silver sarcastically.

Lovell coloured. "We-we were knocked into a cocked hat," he continued. "Dash it all! It was a bit of a shock to us, Jimmy. We had made up our minds that when we found the owner of that broken blade we'd have found the thief. And it turned out to be

"And you were as sure about it as we were," said Raby. "You said it was a certain clue to the rotter."

Jimmy Silver nodded.

"I know I did. I rotter had used my knife, of course."

against you, Jimmy. You can't blame the fellows for being down on you."

"I don't blame them," said Jimmy moodily. "I think they might know me a bit better by this time, that's

"Well, you see, there's a thief in the Fourth somewhere, and the evidence was all against you,' said Raby. "The fellows don't either. know what we know, They know you were pally with a playing." boozy blackguard at the Ship. They don't know that the rotter's your uncle, and that you can't get rid of him. If you told them as much as you told us-"

"I'm not going to tell them," said Jimmy. "I'm not proud of a boozy uncle, and I'm going to say nothing about it. Besides, it wouldn't make much difference. They think pinched the tin to bet with him; but if they knew he was my uncle, they'd on. Shell chaps don't come into this think I pinched it to give to him. | study very often. Of course, he could | Townsend heard him asking me for money the other day, and threatening to come to Rookwood."

"Well, what's to be done?" said Lovell glumly. "We stand by you, of course. That isn't so jolly easy, Topham, for instance." either. If that broken blade had turned out to belong to somebody else, we should have been down on him. On the same evidence, we ought to be down on you."

"Then why aren't you?" said right man."

Jimmy. to you, of course. We know you're | safe enough, if he hasn't already | evidently not in a mood for company; not a thief!" growled Lovell. "But | parted with it." it's a rotten state of affairs. It's being kept lark now, so that the Jimmy. "Not parted with it yet, I | cigarette-box, and Townsend slowly Moderns won't get hold of it; but it's | should think. Put it that he's taken | selected a smoke. This was one of bound to come out sooner or later. It | it to pay a debt he dare not leave | the little customs in Smythe's study. looks as if you're booked for the sack, any longer. Well, what kind of a Jimmy."

money, though," said Raby. "That will help-"

"You're not!" said Jimmy. "What!"

"We-we must!" said Newcome. "I'm responsible as secretary of the Those silly asses who sneak down to displeased," smiled Adolphus. "He footer club. The money was taken out of my desk, and-and-"

"If it's made up by this study, that's as good as admitting that the study pinched it," said Jimmy.

"Well, but-" "We're not going to admit any-

thing of the sort, as it's not true!" "I say, they'll go to the prefects about it," said Lovell uneasily. "Besides, the club can't afford to lose

the money, Jimmy." "We've got something else to do," said Jimmy quietly. "All those duffers think the matter is proved. It's not dark yet, and if I've worked afternoon, and the cheeky cads The thief, whoever he is, thinks that | it out right, the rotter hasn't taken | hoofed me out. Tell us the giddy it's safely fixed on me, and that he's | the money out of the school so far. | history, Towny. Is Silver suspected all serene. He don't know me, We've got to keep our eyes peeled, of pinching something?" though. He's going to be bowled out, and see whether one of the Giddy and if I can't do it on my own, I'm | Goats go out of gates or clears over going to Bulkeley or the Head about

"Jimmy!" "Do you think I'm going to lie down quietly under an accusation like this?" exclaimed Jimmy Silver fiercely. "The truth is going to come out somehow. If we can't handle it, I shall demand a public inquiry by Jimmy Silver breathed | the Head. But I think very likely hard, and dusted down his | we can handle it ourselves. I'm going

"Blessed if I can see what's to be of combat. But there was | done. There ain't any clue-only that weeping and wailing | clue of the broken penknife, and

"It's got to be done, all the same," passage. The chums of | said Jimmy. "I've been thinking it over while you fatheads were making up your minds whether I'm a thief or

"Oh, draw it mild, Jimmy!"

"The money was taken from Newcome's desk this afternoon," said me as if we shall bag the cad." Jimmy. "I've thought it out. It must have been taken while we were | the chums of the Fourth ceased | daylight. That boozy bounder at the at footer practice—the thief couldn't | speaking at once. Dick Oswald of | Ship was threatening him, and debe sure of being undisturbed at any | the Fourth came in. He was looking | manding money, too, the other day." other time. I had left my penknife | a little red and confused, and he in the study; it was easy enough for | reddened still more under the eyes of | him to use it to open Newcome's silly | the Fistical Four. old desk. Then I suppose it occurred to him to leave the blade there-I believe he broke it on purpose. That drawer in the desk was easy enough to open, and there was no need to break a penknife over it. The chap, whoever he was, knew all about the jaw there has been about me, and took advantage of it to make himself safe."

"What an awful rotter!" said Raby.

"A regular criminal!" said New-

"Well, there isn't any chap in the | door, and we'll tell you what we've Fourth who'd be a criminal if he been planning. You can lend us a thought so. I hadn't the | could help it," said Jimmy. "He's | hand." been driven to it. Of course, he's "I'd do anything I could," said a pretty rascal; but I don't believe | Oswald earnestly. "I haven't forany chap here would be rascal gotten all you did for me, Jimmy, Lovell looked uneasy. | enough to do such a thing unless he | when the fellows were down on me."

"It looks jolly black was fairly driven into a corner. He "Cast your bread upon the waters,

owed money, and had to pay itthat's how I work it out."

owed money running into pounds, and

was desperate about it-desperate

enough to steal. There's only one

way a fellow could get into debt as

bad as that. It was one of the Giddy

Goats-one of those silly blackguards

who go in for betting and card-

"That's what I thought at first."

"Looks like it," said Lovell.

"We've got to find out which,"

some chap in the Shell-Smythe, or

some of them in the Fourth, and

think most likely this was a Fourth

Form chap. A Shell fellow wouldn't

know so much about the junior club

have found it all out. But it looks to

me more likely that it was a Fourth-

Form chap. Now, we know there are

some of the Classical Fourth who

smoke and gamble, and play the

giddy ox generally. Townsend and

you, Jimmy," said Raby.

"They've both been jolly down on

"I don't accuse anybody," said

Bird-in-Hand most likely."

mightn't he?"

spotted. It would mean the sack

the rotter, whoever he is, would be

most likely to hide the loot, and sneak

out after dark to pay the rascal he

"Blessed if I see how we're to spot

"We can spot him by keeping our

the wall. If any fellow is missing

this evening we've got to know the

"But suppose he don't go this even-

ing?" he said. "More likely to

break bounds out of the dorm

Silver. "I'm going to stay awake

"But suppose it was a Shell chap?

watch on their dorm, if necessary,"

said Jimmy Silver. "I'd do it while

you fellows watch in our room, if you

"Well, what's wanted?" snapped

anything against you, Silver. You

my luck, and I'm standing by you-

Jimmy Silver's face cleared.

sure you mean that-"

"Honest Injun!" said Oswald.

"Done!" said Jimmy. "Shut the

Lovell rubbed his hands.

Jimmy Silver.

if you want me."

to-night in the dorm and see."

Lovell nodded thoughtfully.

him, if he does that," he said.

Jimmy Silver smiled grimly.

owes it to."

reason why."

Lovell whistled.

to-night, I should say."

funds and Newcome's desk, and so

"Listen to me a minute. A chap

"But who-"

one of his friends.

Price

One Penny

But there are

and it shall return after many daysbuttered!" grinned Raby.

"Ha, ha, ha!"

And, in much cheerier spirits, the five juniors discussed in low tones the scheme Jimmy Silver had formed; and they left the study as the dusk began to deepen over Rookwood.

> The 3rd Chapter. Adolphus Makes a Discovery.

"Come into the study, Towny, old

sport!" said Jimmy. "Of course, it might be Adolphus Smythe of the Shell tapped Townsend on the shoulder as he spoke, very genially. The dandy of the Fourth jerked himself away. The condescension of the great Adolphus did not seem to please him

> somehow. "Thanks! I've got something to

do," said Townsend.

"Oh, trot in and have a fag!" said Smythe. "Besides, I've got something to say to you. I hear that there's a regular scandal in the Fourth."

Townsend hesitated, and then walked along the passage with Smythe. They entered Adolphus' elegantly-furnished study, upon which Adolphus' admiring aunts and uncles Jimmy. "I only want to get at the | had spent quite a lot of money.

"Squat down, old scout!" "But how are we going to do it? | Townsend shifted restlessly, and "Oh, don't be an ass! We stick | Depend on it he's hidden the money | finally sank into a chair. He was but Smythe affected not to notice "Hidden it right enough," assented | it. The Nut of the Shell opened a

"What's this going on in the debt would that be? Money owed Fourth?" asked Smythe. "The kids "We're going to make up the to some bookmaker or some sporting | don't seem to be pally with Jimmy

rascal—one of the low crowd at the Silver, I notice." "Do you?" mumbled Townsend.

"Well, he might have paid him, "Yes, rather. They seem to be up against him. If they're down on that "He might, but it's not likely. | cheeky cad at last, I can't say I'm the Bird-in-Hand never go there in was too cheeky, by half. You never the daylight; they're afraid of being liked him, either, Towny."

"Well, he didn't like me, I supif they were bowled out. I think pose."

"Oil and water won't mix," said Smythe sagely. "A decently-dressed chap who goes the pace a bit can't expect to get on with those raucous footballing cads in the end study. But what have they got up against him? I heard young Smith saying something about a theft. It can't be that. You were holding a Formeyes open, if I'm on the right track. | meeting in the common-room this

> "We are going to keep it dark," said Townsend. "We don't want the Modern cads to chip us about it?" "Well, I sha'n't jaw to the

Moderns: I never recognise them," said Smythe loftily.

"The club funds have been boned out of Newcome's desk," said Townsend. "Jimmy Silver did it. It's in his study, you know. All the "More likely," agreed Jimmy chaps on this side will know it by tomorrow, anyway. But we're keeping it away from the Moderns."

Smythe whistled.

We can't stay awake in the Shell "Well, I'd heard about his boozy dorm, you know," said Raby, with a acquaintances," he remarked, "but I never thought it would come to "One of us can scoot out and keep this. I suppose it's a cert?" "His own chums found him out."

"They're chumming up with him all the same," said Smythe. "I've just seen them pow-wowing together in the guad."

"My hat! You ought to be a | "They're looking over it, I supgiddy detective, Jimmy! Looks to bose," said Townsend. "Anyway. Raby found Silver's pocket-knife There was a tap at the door, and broken in the desk. It's as clear as Smythe rubbed his hands.

> "The Head ought to know," he said. "The cad ought to be kicked out. I might get the junior captaincy back again if he were booted out of Rookwood. There ought to be a regular uproar about it."

"Nothing," said Oswald. "Onlyonly I want to tell you that I've "We want to keep it dark," said thought it over, and I don't believe Townsend uneasily. "I don't believe in being too hard on the poor stood by me when I was down on

"What rot! He's a thief, ain't he?

A thief ought to be hung!" said "Good man!" he said. "If you're | Smythe. "Pretty rotten to have a thief here among decent fellows! What the dickens is the matter with you, Towny?" "N-nothing!"

"You looked quite sick for a minute;" said Smythe, in wonder. "Hallo, not going, are you?"

Townsend rose. "Yes; I'm rather busy."

"Oh, rot!" said Smythe. "I'd like a little game, if you would-nap or

learned to Shoot By E. H. THE first time I handled a rifle I scored 83. simply because I had a good gun, and an expert at my side who showed me how to use it. And you can learn just as quickly if you weapon which shoots true, makes no noise, and does no wrong. Write for this free book to-day; and then ask a dealer to let you try a 'Daisy!'
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(Continued from the previous page.)

banker, just as you like. Look here, have you got it up against me that it, you know."

"That's all right!" "How will you get on with Joey Hook? My idea is that he'll give you

plenty of time if you ask him." "I-I think that will be all right," said Townsend haltingly. "Never mind the five quid-I don't want to borrow of you."

funds, I suppose?"

Townsend started. "I'm not in funds!" he exclaimed. "What made you think I was in funs? What the dickens are you get-

ting at, Smythe, confound you?" Adolphus stared at the dandy of the Fourth in amazement.

"Keep your wool on, old scout!" he said. "Nothing to get your rag out about, that I can see. I thought you were in funds. You wanted to borrow of me to-day, and I couldn't help you, and I know Newcome was dunning you for your footer subscription. But I hear you paid up today, so I concluded you had a remittance. Topham told me you'd paid up; I asked him. As a matter of fact, I was ready to lend you the five bob, if you'd wanted it. Five pounds is a different story."

"I-I paid that," said Townsend. "I-I wasn't so stony as all that. It was quids I wanted, not bobs. settled with Newcome all right about that rotten subscription."

"Then you haven't had a remittance?" asked Smythe, a considerable amount of the geniality departing

from his manner. "No. I haven't." Townsend's lip curled in a sneer. "If you've asked me in here because you thought I was in funds, you've wasted your time!"

"Oh, draw it mild!" said Smythe, flushing a little. "If you were flush again, I thought you might like to try your luck at nap. I owe you your revenge, you know. I cleaned you out last time."

"I know you did," said Townsend bitterly. "You, and Howard, and Tracy, and Joey Hook, the bookie! A precious lot, the set of you! If I'd never had anything to do with you, I shouldn't be in that villain's clutches now, and I shouldn't have-" He broke off abruptly. "You introduced me to him, and you wouldn't lend me five quid to get out of his hands, when you knew he was threatening to go to my father, and get me into an awful row."

"I couldn't," said Smythe tartly. "As for introducing you to him, you asked me to-fairly ragged me into doing it, in fact. And about his threatening you, I believe that's all bluff, to put the screw on and make you pay up. You're a doocid bad payer, Towny, and you can't deny it. Newcome's had to dun you for weeks for your footer subscription, and it seems you could have paid all the time if you'd liked."

"I couldn't; that is, I mean-" Smythe, watching the Fourth-

Former's agitated face, gave a sudden low whistle. A startled look came into his eyes.

"Towny, old man," he said, in a low voice, "you haven't-you couldn't-"

"What!" exclaimed Townsend fiercely. "What are you insinuating,

you hound?" "Better language, please!" snapped Smythe. "It looks jolly queer to me.

You were hard hit for five quids, and that he had not had that little talk the same afternoon this happens-" "You dare to say-" Townsend

almost choked. "You cad! You led me into all of it; you got me into this horrible fix, and refused to raise a finger to help me out! You slackin', smokin', gamblin' cad! It's all your fault! And if you dare to repeat a word of what's in your there's some things I could say about

what goes on in this study-and at the Bird-in-Hand, too!"

"Cheese it!" said Smythe, paling I couldn't lend you five quids when a little. "I'm not goin' to say anyyou asked me? I really couldn't do | thin'-it isn't my business. I'm not goin' to say a word!"

"You'd better not!" snarled Townsend; and he strode out of the study, and slammed the door violently behind him.

whistled again—a prolonged whistle. | the peculiar way the Classical He stared thoughtfully out of his juniors were keeping the secret made study window. Jimmy Silver was it pretty certain that in twenty-four "You can settle now you're in visible in the dusky quad, and Smythe | hours it would be all over Rookwood. noted that Hooker and Smith minor | "Hallo, here you are!" said Lovell,

Tommy Dodd & Co. had nodded cheerily to him in the quad.

FRIEND

But Jimmy knew that the story must soon spread, though all the Classical Fourth agreed in wishing to keep it from the Moderns.

By the morrow he would be cut by all the Lower School, unless he succeeded in discovering the thief, and clearing his name.

Several of the Shell had heard it already, as he could see by the mocking glances he received from Howard I and Tracy and Selwyn when he | grinned Lovell. "Suppose you should passed them.

He went into the common-room to look for his chums. Several of the Classical Fourth were there, and there was a hiss as Jimmy Silver came in.

Wegg of the Third was drying a pair of muddy boots over the fire, hand, he might be the very fellow

"Hallo, what's this about?" asked

Jimmy Silver went out, and no Adolphus Smythe, left alone, one replied to Wegg's question. But

of the Fourth turned their backs on I meeting Jimmy in the passage. "The I

prepared to suspect-and to watchany member of that delectable circle who showed a desire to get outside

Rookwood that evening. "Going out?" asked Newcome affably as Townsend stood hesitating.

"No," muttered Townsend "I-I was thinking of a stroll in the quad, that's all. I've got a bit of a head-

"It's raining," said Lovell. "I don't mind a bit of rain."

"What about your clobber?" spoil your beautiful trucks, Towny?" "Oh, rats!"

Townsend went out on the steps. Lovell glanced at Newcome significantly. Townsend might be going for a stroll in the quad because he had a bit of a headache. On the other and he looked round as he heard the | they wanted, and his intention might be to scale the wall and clear off trusting to luck not to be missed. He was not likely to be missed if he came back before bedtime.

"Well, I don't mind a bit of rain, either," said Lovell. "I'll come for

a stroll with you, Towny." Townsend stopped suddenly.

"You needn't trouble," he said. "No trouble at all."

"Look here, Lovell, we're not



"You stood by me when I was down on my luck," said Oswald, "and I'm standing by you—if you want me." Jimmy Silver's face cleared. "Good man!" he said. "If you're sure you mean that--" "Honest injun!" said Oswald.

flush and his hand clench.

"Barred by his Form!" muttered

Smythe. "And all the time- My

Smythe sat down, and lighted another cigarette. He could not afford to quarrel with Townsend, who knew too many of his little secrets. And he had been "up against" Jimmy Silver ever since that cheery youth had come to Rookwood. Smythe told himself that it was none of his business.

But, hardened as he was, the "Giddy Goat" of the Shell felt a twinge of conscience; and he wished with Townsend.

> The 4th Chapter. Under Suspicion.

House with a clouded brow.

With the exception of his chums, | going out?

voice. "Nobody's gone out."

Jimmy nodded. "We'll see at call-over, too,"

added Lovell. Calling-over was held in Big Hall. The Fistical Four noted that every

fellow answered to his name. After call-over, Lovell and Newcome stood in the big doorway, chatting. They chatted with their eyes well open.

They were there to "spot" any fellow-especially any Fourth-Form fellow-who went out into the quadrangle.

It was a misty evening, and rain up the quad, I suppose?" was beginning to fall. A little later, Townsend of the Fourth came down | "Wouldn't touch you with a bargeto the big door, which was not yet | pole, Towny. But I'm going to closed.

him. He saw Jimmy Silver's face | gates are closed." He lowered his | friends, and I don't want your company!" said Townsend abruptly. "What beautiful manners these

nuts have," said Lovell cheerfully. "Still, I suppose we can walk in the quad if we like? Come on, Newcome!"

Townsend had gone down the steps. Lovell and Newcome followed him. The dandy of the Fourth stopped again, biting his underlip.

"What are you following me for, you rotters?" ne muttered, in a low, tense voice.

"Following you," repeated Lovell. "My dear chap, you haven't bought

"Will you let me alone?"

Lovell and Newcome exchanged as I like," said Lovell coolly.

out into the misty quad. Was he silent for a minute, biting his lip. and several other wealthy Goats, and His eyes were glittering. Lovell and Lovell and Raby and Newcome and Townsend was not in any way a Newcome strolled on a few paces, and rotten, suspicious mind, Smythe, Dick Oswald, not a soul on the special object of their suspicions any then strolled back again. They did Classical side of the Fourth Form | more than any other member of the | not mean to lose sight of Townsend. | good many comments had been passed you, too. I wouldn't think twice of | chose to speak to him. So far, the | select society of Giddy Goats. But, | Jimmy Silver stepped out of the door- | on his state of hard-upness.

"Come on, you chaps! Time for

"No hurry," said Lovell. "Come out here, Jimmy. Beautiful night for a saunter-nice and rainy, you know."

Jimmy Silver laughed, and joined them. Townsend muttered something under his breath, and went back into the house. Lovell looked at his chums, his eyes glistening with excitement.

"You spotted it, Jimmy?" he said breathlessly.

"Yes; I saw it all," said Jimmy Silver quietly. "He wanted to go out, and he wanted to dodge you chaps."

"Yes. And why?" whispered Lovell. "He's our bird, Jimmy." "It begins to look like it. He

might only be going out for one of his usual little games," said Jimmy thoughtfully. "He might have one of his precious appointments for this evening. But I fancy it will pay us to keep an eye on Towny. I don't know much about him, but I had an impression that he's got lots of money, though. Not the chap to be so hard up as I figured it out."

"That's all you know!" said Newcome. "I've had to dun him no end for his footer subscription. We had a row about it to-day. He's paid up since, though."

Jimmy Silver started.

"He's paid up since!" he exclaimed. "So he was out of money before, and he's got into funds again -what!"

"I suppose so. He came to the study and paid up his five bob," said Newcome. "I was going to my desk to put his money with the rest, when I found out that the club funds were missing. That's how I came to discover it to-day."

"Then it was through Townsend

"Yes. If he hadn't paid up to-day, I shouldn't have gone to the money drawer, certainly. Mightn't have gone to it for days," said Newcome. "And all that time the thief would

have been on tenterhooks," said Jimmy Silver. "Whoever collared the cash and left my knife-blade there, must have been anxious for it to come out, and to get it fixed on me. He put the blade there, and chucked the knife into Flynn's study, where Flynn was sure to find it and notice that it was broken-as he did. If I'd found the knife before that discovery was made, I should have been hunting for the chap who took it from my study and busted it. That would have spoiled the whole game. The discovery had to be made about the money before the knife came into my hands again. See?" "Yes, rather!"

"And by paying up his subscription, Townsend caused the discovery to be made," said Jimmy Silver. "It may be chance, but it looks mightylike a clue. Then, he had the money to pay, and earlier in the afternoon he hadn't. And now he's trying to sneak out of the school without being seen, and gives it up because you fellows have kept your eye on him."

Lovell drew a deep breath. "We're on the giddy track!" he said.

"I think we are," said Jimmy Silver quietly.

The 5th Chapter. After Dark.

"Bed!" said Bulkeley, looking into the junior common-room.

The Classical Fourth were mostly in the common-room, and mostly discussing Jimmy Silver and his iniquities. The discussion ceased as the captain of Rookwood looked in.

The juniors went to their dormitory. Townsend was there, with his chum Topham. Lovell was also there, with one eye on Townsend.

Hardly for a minute that evening had Townsend escaped the observation of one or other of the Classical chums.

They had their eyes open for any other possibly suspicious person; but it was upon the dandy of the Fourth that their suspicions centred.

He was one of the Giddy Goats, and they knew that he dabbled in betting. And now that their attention was turned to him, they remembered that he had been looking worried and distraught for days past. They had observed, too, that he was walk in the quad if I like, and as long | no longer speaking to Smythe of the Shell, and they had heard that Towny Jimmy Silver came into the School glances as Townsend stood looking | The dandy of the Fourth stood had tried to borrow money of Smythe failed. Townsend had made so many attempts to raise, by borrowing, the debt he owed to Joey Hook, that a

going to Bulkeley, and telling him Moderns had not heard the story, and on Jimmy Silver's theory, they were way and called to them.



(Continued from previous page.)

interested in Townsend just now.

night.

According to Jimmy Silver's astute theory, the thief could not yet have name were staked on the happenings disposed of the money taken from of that night. He was not likely to Newcome's desk. If Townsend was | sleep. the thief, and if that had been his object in seeking to get out of the school that evening, he had been baffled. He was not likely to leave it till the morrow. Only desperate fear of a hard creditor could have driven him to such a crime, and that fear would drive him to paying over the stolen money as quickly as possible, and getting rid of it. The thief, whoever he was, was almost certain to attempt to break bounds that night if there was anything in Jimmy Silver's theory.

Bulkeley put out the lights in the dormitory of the Classical Fourth. There was a buzz of talk among the juniors for some time. They did not speak to Jimmy Silver, but they spoke at him. Topham related a story of a burglary, Flynn told of a case he had read in a paper of a robbery, Jones minor discussed the manners and customs of pickpockets. It was all for Jimmy Silver's ears.

But Jimmy gave no sign of having taken it to himself. He uttered no word.

His tormentors gave it up at last, concluding, in disgust, that he had fallen asleep, and that their eloquence was wasted on him.

By ten o'clock all was quiet in the dormitory.

But all the juniors were not sleep-

There was one who watched the starlight at the high windows with sleepless, haggard eyes. And there were five who waited and watched, but made no sound.

Eleven o'clock sounded dully from the clock-tower over on the Modern side of Rookwood.

By that time Newcome and Raby were in the land of dreams, and Oswald was nodding off. Their intention was to keep wide awake, but they I

the Fistical Four were extremely | dozed off unconsciously. The spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak.

There was not likely to be much | But Jimmy Silver's eyes never sleep for any member of the Co. that | closed for a moment, and Lovell was equally wide awake.

Jimmy Silver's honour and good

Midnight!

The last stroke of twelve died away in the silence of the night. By that juniors hurried on their clothes, and time all Rookwood was plunged in darkness and slumber, save for the two chums in the Fourth Form dormitory and one other.

A few minutes after midnight there was a faint sound in the dormitory.

Jimmy Silver, without a sound or a motion, listened, striving with his keen eyes to penetrate the surrounding gloom.

He knew what that sound was. It was the faint creak of a bed, as its occupant left it with infinite caution. One of the Classical Fourth was getting up—at past midnight!

Jimmy Silver's heart beat faster. He had hoped and believed that the theory he had formed was correct. He had proof of it now-or almost | proof. It was always possible that they were in the passage. one of the Giddy Goats was going "on the razzle," as the elegant Adolphus would have described it. But it was very unusual for the giddiest of Giddy Goats to leave his razzle to so very late an hour. By that time even the merry sportingparty at the Bird-in-Hand would be thinking of bed.

Whoever was going out, therefore, was not a Goat on the razzle, in all probability. It was more serious than

Jimmy Silver listened

Faintly in the darkness came vague sounds, and he knew that whoever had risen from his bed was dressing himself in the dark with great caution.

Then there came a sound of an opening door, and of its closing again. Then Jimmy heard Lovell turning out of the next bed.

husky with excitement. "Jimmy, are you awake, old chap?" "You bet!" said Jimmy Silver

tersely.

"You-you heard-" "Yes! Get your clobber on, Lovell!" Jimmy was out of bed in a twinkling. "Wake the other chaps, they're asleep; we've stuck it out,

though-". Lovell chuckled softly. "I wasn't likely to sleep," he mut-

"Whisper!" said Jimmy. "He'll get clear if we're not after him at once."

tered. "Jimmy, old man-"

"No good collaring him in the passage," Jimmy whispered back. "No good nailing him unless he's got the plunder on him. It's more likely he's hidden it somewhere, and he's Jimmy Silver was safely on the If he was coming, there was no going to get it and clear out over ground. the wall. We've got to get down to the school wall and head him off."

"Right!" Lovell shook Raby and Newcome, | the archway into Little Quad. and they woke up at once. Jimmy Silver awakened Oswald. A whis-The five pered word was enough. the rubber shoes they had concealed

in their beds in readiness.

cautiously.

There was no sound in the passage. "He's clear!" whispered Raby.

"Wait a tick!" Jimmy Silver crept silently to Townsend's bed. He was almost certain of the identity of the junior who had quitted the dormitory, but he intended to be quite certain.

Townsend's bed was in darkness. There was no He bent over it. sound of breathing. Then his hand glided over the pillow. No head rested there. The bed was empty.

Jimmy rejoined his chums, and drew the dormitory door shut when

"It's Towny?" whispered Oswald. "Yes; his bed's empty."

"I knew it!" muttered Lovell. "I knew it!" said Jimmy. "But

now we're sure! Come on! Follow your leader." Without a word or a question, the

chums of the Fourth followed Jimmy Silver. Silent in the rubber shoes, they glided quickly along the dark passage.

Jimmy Silver opened the window at the end of the passage.

"The ivy!" whispered Lovell. "Yes."

"Towny would get out by the boxroom. He hasn't nerve enough for

"I know that. We shall head him off this way." Lovell grinned in the darkness.

"Good!"

Jimmy Silver led the way. It re-"Jimmy!" Lovell's voice was quired some nerve to swing out of

the window and descend by the thick ivy that covered the old stone wall thickly. In the daylight it would not have been a dangerous feat, but with darkness around and below them the juniors needed all their nerve for the task. But they did not hesitate.

Jimmy swung himself out.

"I'll cut off to the wall as soon as I get on the ground," he whispered. "You follow on as soon as you're down. The corner by Little Quad."

"Right-ho!" Jimmy Silver vanished into the

darkness.

Only the rustling and shaking of the ivy told of his rapid descent. Lovell waited one minute for him to get clear, and then clambered through the big window.

He did not pause a second. With quick, silent feet he raced

across the quadrangle and through

There, where two walls joined, at a sharp angle, an ancient beech-tree was half embedded in the stonework, and rendered it easy for the clumsiest climber to scale the wall. It was a spot well-known to fellows who had Jimmy opened the dormitory door | their own reasons for quitting the school occasionally at forbidden hours. Jimmy Silver & Co. certainly had seldom made use of their knowledge, but they knew all about it.

That was the spot Townsend would make for. Jimmy Silver knew that, Jimmy Silver himself might have scaled the wall in some more difficult place, but not the Slacker of the Fourth. If Townsend was going out of bounds he was certain to make for that corner of Little Quad. Many a time had Townsend, Topham, Smythe, and the other Giddy Goats climbed the wall in that place for their surreptitious visits to the Birdin-Hand at Coombe.

Jimmy Silver panted a little as he reached the dark corner under the gloomy shade of the old beech.

He was sure that he was ahead of Townsend. The latter had had five minutes' start, but he had to descend by the box-room window at the back of the School House and make his way round the great building. And he had no occasion to hurry as Jimmy had done.

Jimmy, too, suspected that the money had been hidden, and that Townsend would have to take it from its hiding-place. He was not likely to have kept it upon him. Jimmy waited.

A faint shadow loomed up. It was Lovell. He joined the captain of the Fourth silently.

"That you, Jimmy?" "What-ho!"

"You haven't seen him?"

"Not yet!"

Silently in the darkness Raby and Newcome and Oswald joined them. There was a few whispered words, and then silence.

The juniors waited with tense eagerness.

Was Townsend coming, or were they on the wrong track after all? Yet for what reason could Townsend have risen after midnight and dressed himself and left the dormitory in such a stealthy fashion unless it was to break bounds? Once, when caught out of his dormitory at a late hour, he had told a story of toothache, and getting something for it from his study. But, though that story had satisfied Mr. Bootles, the juniors had known that it was false.

Was he coming?

doubt that they were ahead of him. But was he coming?

Faintly through the silence in Little Quad came a sound—the faint sound of a stealthy footstep. The vigil had lasted a quarter of an hour.

Lovell gripped Jimmy's arm silently.

The five juniors backed against the wall, leaving clear the path to the tree. The footsteps came on.

Dimly, barely seen, a form loomed before their eyes. The rain was still falling in light drops. They heard a hurried breathing and a scraping sound of boots upon the sloping trunk of the old beech.

"Collar him!" Jimmy Silver muttered the words

The 6th Chapter.

Held by the Enemy,

"Collar him!"

and sprang forward.

There was a faint shriek in the darkness. The climbing form on the tree, collared by five pairs of hands at once, came tumbling down in the grasp of the juniors. Townsend did not resist.

He lay heavily in the hands of the juniors who had seized him. "Got him!" muttered Lovell

jubilantly. "What's the matter with him?" exclaimed Oswald.

"Townsend, you rotter!"

"Towny, you cad!"

"Scared!" grinned Lovell. "Scared out of his silly wits! Don't be frightened, you funky ass, it's only "Little us!" chuckled Raby.

There was a deep, gasping breath

from Townsend. He began to struggle. That sudden collaring in the darkness had indeed scared him almost out of his wits for the moment. "Lovell!" he panted.

"Yes, you rotter!"

"Hold him!" muttered Jimmy (Continued on the next page.)



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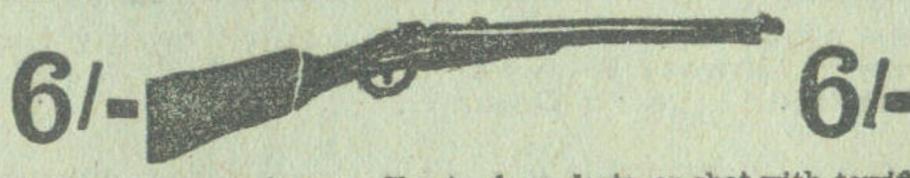
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Edited by the Chums of Greyfriars School

OUT TO-DAY!

school?" "Jimmy Silver!"

"We're all here!" chuckled Raby. "Five of us, my pippin! And if you wriggle like an eel, you won't get away, so you can chuck it!"

Townsend seemed to realise that, for he ceased to resist. He was securely held by the five juniors, and there was no chance for him. He panted breathlessly, his heart beating in great throbs.

"Well, you've got me," he said, trying to speak calmly, though his eyes were burning in the darkness. "You startled me at first. But now what do you want? Have you set up as prefects, to look after fellows who break bounds?"

"We're looking after specially," said Jimmy Silver. "You are the apple of our eye at the present moment, my dear boy."

"What-ho!" grinned Lovell. "We | eyes. wouldn't lose you for your weight in gold, Towny!"

Townsend peered at them in the darkness.

"What do you mean? Let me

"No fear!" "You've no right to interfere with

me!" panted Townsend. "Go hon!"

"You interfering cads! Suppose I'm going down to the Bird-in-Hand!" said Townsend. "Is it any business of yours? Smythe goes, and so does Topham sometimes, and Howard and Tracy. Yes, and Knowles of the Sixth; you know it. What are you chipping in for? Mind your own business, hang you!"

"This is our business," said Jimmy Silver. "As for your blackguardly doings, they're not our business, and we shouldn't chip in for that. What have you been doing since you were out of bed? We got here a good quarter of an hour ahead of you, and you had a start."

"I-I had to be careful, picking my way in the dark-"

"You didn't have to spend any time looking for something you'd hidden somewhere?" asked Jimmy Silver caustically.

Townsend started violently, and the juniors who were holding him felt him tremble in their grasp.

The wretched black sheep was shaking from head to foot, in a spasm of sudden terror caused by Jimmy Silver's question.

"No need for him to answer that question, I think," said Oswald soberly. "It's answered pretty plainly. He's got the money about him now!"

"The-the money!" panted Townsend.

"Bring him along," said Jimmy Silver shortly.

Townsend began to resist. "What are you going to do? Where are you going? What do you mean?" His voice rose to a shriek. "Let me go! I'll scream and wake the school!"

"Wake the school if you like," said Jimmy Silver. "If you prefer to have the Head deal with the matter, you can take your choice. It will mean the sack for you. It's your | own affair!"

"What do you mean, you-you thief?" hissed Townsend. "Shut that, you lying villain!" exclaimed Lovell fiercely.

But Jimmy Silver only laughed. "I'll tell you what I mean, Townsend," said Jimmy Silver. "It's true enough, I dare say, that you were going to the Bird-in-Hand. But you were not going there to gamble; it's too late for that. You were going to see somebody there specially. And my belief is that it's a man you owe money to, whom you're anxious

to square up at once!" "Nothing of the sort! I'm stony, too. Anybody who knows me will waking up now, at the sound of tell you I'm out of tin!"

said Jimmy Silver. "It's known blinked in astonishment at the well enough that you were out of tin | strange scene revealed by the glim--your own tin. I know that. But | mering candle. enough said. Bring him along, you chaps. We've got to get back to the dorm!"

"I-I'm going out!" stammered

Townsend. "Your mistake-you're coming

With a hard grasp upon his arms and his collar, the juniors marched Townsend across Little Quad, and then across Big Quad to the School House.

School House they marched him, and, The light glimmered on Townsend's silver," said Newcome quietly. "I there's the money. I'm going to still with a grip on his collar, he colourless face. The wretched junior shoved it in my desk just as the bed." the way he had left the house. He I slide his hand into his breast, but he I Flynn turned the pocket out.

"Don't make a row, Townsend, you powerless. He was in the hands of idiot! Do you want to wake the the Philistines, and he had to submit to his fate.

Published

Every Monday

Jimmy Silver fastened the window after the juniors were inside. Then, with silent steps, they trod the passage to the Fourth-Form dormi-

The 7th Chapter. The Thief!

As the juniors entered the dormitory Lovell groped in his pocket, and produced a candle-end, and placed a match to it. Lights and shadows danced on the white walls.

A sleepy voice came from Flynn's

"Faith, thin, and what's that? Who's got a light?"

"Wake up!" growled Lovell. Flynn sat up in bed, and rubbed his

"Howly mother av Moses! What's up?" he exclaimed. "Is it a fire or Zeppelins?"

seen by the whole Form.

A crowd of startled faces were round him now. There was no mistaking the import of Jimmy Silver's words. It was Townsend who was accused.

Jimmy Silver's eyes dwelt with a sarcastic glance upon the surprised crowd of juniors.

"You're going to hear the facts now," he said. "Just after midnight Townsend sneaked out of bed. We were keeping awake, and we spotted him!"

"Spyin' on him!" sneered Top-

"Watching him," said Jimmy Silver calmly, "because we suspected him of being the thief, and of wanting to get out of the school secretly with the money he had taken from Newcome's desk."

"Oh, by gad! Tell him he's a liar, Towny!"

Townsend did not speak.

"We waited for him in the corner of Little Quad, and collared him as he "Neither, fathead: but it'll be was getting out," said Jimmy Silver.

Silver, as Townsend struggled. did not utter a word. He was was too securely held for that. What- shower of silver coins came out into Glances of contempt were thrown ever he had concealed about him was his open hands. Shillings, halfnot to be disposed of till it had been | crowns, a five-shilling piece, a halfsovereign, and a number of florins. The Fourth-Formers looked on breathlessly. It was evidently the money that had been taken from Newcome's desk. There could not be the slightest doubt upon that point. Indeed, Flynn himself remembered having paid his subscription in a fiveshilling piece, and Topham remembered that he had changed a halfsovereign with Newcome when he

handful of money upon a bed.

"Five pounds fifteen shillings," he

desk," said Newcome, "and after that Townsend paid up his subscriptionfive shillings."

"By gad!" said Topham.

"Do you want any more proof?"

Townsend leaned heavily on Lovell, who was still holding him. His

strength seemed to have forsaken him. Flynn, in grim silence, poured the

"Count it!" said Jimmy Silver. Flynn counted it.

"Six pounds was taken from my

"Sure, it's plain enough."

masters or prefects if you howl out "We brought him straight back here. asked Jimmy Silver. "Townsend

Townsend lay heavily in the hands of the juniors who had seized him. "What's the matter with him?" exclaimed Oswald. "Scared!" grinned Lovell. "Scared out of his silly wits! Don't be frightened, you funky ass-it's only us!"

like that in the middle of the night!" snapped Lovell.

"But phwat's the matther?"

"What the dickens-" said Top-

"Hallo! What's the little game?" demanded Hooker.

The Classical Fourth were all voices and the glimmer of light. "That's what we're going to see," Fellows sat up in their beds, and

> "Get up!" snapped Jimmy. you want to know, we've found the

"You're the thief!" growled Top-

"We've found him," repeated Jimmy Silver, "and we want all the Form to witness the proof of it. Get

The Classical juniors turned out of bed at that, in wonder. Another here," muttered Flynn. Round the dark and shadowy candle-end was lighted, and another. "The club money was mostly in "There's the thief," he said, "and climbed in at the box-room window, had made more than one attempt to fellows paid it to me."

Now he's going to be searched in the | was sneaking out of the school after presence of all you fellows. My | midnight, with that money in his belief is that he had the money | pocket." hidden somewhere, and that he took | "I'm done with him," said it from the place to take it out with Topham, shrugging his shoulders. him—to pay a debt to some rascally | Townsend's look was haggard. His betting rotter, I imagine. Anyway, own chum was convinced, and had I believe it will be found on him!"

"Rats!" "Rot!"

"Why don't you tell him he's a liar,

Towny?" Townsend trembled, and his lips quivered, but no word came from put it on him. You've led us all by

"Flynn, old man, come and turn out his pockets," said Jimmy Silver. "We won't have a hand in it."

pallor as of death was in Townsend's | "I don't blame you," said Jimmy an aspen.

Clink, clink!

turned his back on him. The wretched junior groaned aloud.

"Haven't you anything to say?" exclaimed Hooker savagely. "You stole the club funds, then, and planted Jimmy Silver's knife in the desk to the nose."

"Sure, I'm sorry," said Flynn repentantly. "But, faith, it was all Lovell's fault. He was so jolly sure as we're concerned." Elynn hesitated, but he came for- about his clue of the penknife, and ward. Townsend's jacket was but- he tould us he was going to find the toned up; Flynn jerked it open. A | thief with that silly clue, and so--"

cheeks, and he was trembling like | Silver. "You can't help being a set l of silly, burbling asses, I suppose--" "Oh, draw it mild; you know!"

"Begorra, there's plenty of money | Jimmy Silver pointed to the ghastly Townsend.

upon him from all sides.

With a moan of utter misery, the dandy of the Fourth turned into bed, and lay there silent, as the candles were blown out, and the juniors returned to bed. After a time the Fourth Form slept-but no sleep came to Townsend's haggard eyes. In dumb misery he lay, and watched the dawn stealing in at the high windows.

8th Chapter. Least Said Soonest Mended.

Jimmy Silver's name had been

The repentant Classicals the next day showed their repentance in many ways; and Jimmy Silver, who never bore malice, kindly condescended to accept their apologies. Townsend was avoided as if he had been a leper.

That day Townsend had a consultation with Smythe of the Shell, and the astute Adolphus gave him sage advice.

That evening Oswald dropped into the end study, where the Fistical Four, in the cheeriest of spirits, were starting their prep.

There was a curious expression on Oswald's face.

"Have you heard?" he asked. "What-and which?" asked Jimmy

Silver. "About Townsend?"

"Found out and sacked?" asked Lovell.

"Oh, no! He's got out a new version of the story," said Oswald. "The chaps are talking it over-they don't know what to make of it. It seemsaccording to Townsend-that it was all a practical joke."

"A what!" ejaculated Raby. "His story is that he took the cash

out of Newcome's desk, and left. Jimmy's knife there, simply as a joke on Jimmy." "Oh, crumbs!" said Newcome.

"Last night he got up, intending to

out it back again, with a note explaining that it was a joke, and telling Jimmy he had been spoofed."

"Great Scott!" "But he had an appointment at the Bird-in-Hand, and he was going there first, and then you fellows col-

lared him-"

"Phew!" "So he wasn't able to carry out his intention. In the dorm, he felt that appearances were against him, and he was so knocked over that he didn't explain. He's explained now."

"Well," said Jimmy, with a deep "That chap beats Ananias and the Kaiser at their own game. But does he think that anybody will swallow a yarn like that?"

"He's got witnesses!" grinned Oswald.

"Wha-a-at!"

"Some fellows knew the whole joke all along, you see."

"Oh, my hat!" "Smythe and Howard and Tracy are the fellows. They declared that they were in Towny's confidence from

the first, and that they knew it was a practical joke, and were laughing up their sleeve about it." "Good old Adolphus!" grinned Jimmy Silver. "He won't let one of his precious Giddy Goats be shown up

if he can help it." "It can't be true!" said Lovell. "Of course it isn't," said Jimmy. "But I dare say the fellows will believe it. They'll give Towny the benefit of the doubt, anyway. Let

"But are we going to let the miserable cad crawl out of it with a lie like that?" exclaimed Lovell hotly.

Jimmy Silver nodded. "We are—we is!" he said. "Towny's had his lesson-he won't burn his fingers again, I imagine. Give him a chance to live it down. Least said soonest mended—we don't want to give the Moderns a chance of chipping us about a thief on this side. Let him crawl out of it. Besides, it might be the truth."

"Might!" snorted Lovell. "Might!" said Jimmy Silver. "'Tain't our business, anyway. We come out on top-as usual-and we don't want to hit a chap when he's down, even if he's a rotter and a worm. Let him crawl out of it, so far

"Then," said Oswald, "you're going to say---"

"Nothing!" said Jimmy Silver. "Least said soonest mended." And the Fistical Four kept to that, and declined to say a word on the subject of Townsend's remarkable explanation, so Townsend had the benefit of the doubt.

THE END.

(Next Monday's magnificent, loug, complete tale of Jimmy Silver and Co. is en-Newcome gathered up the money. | tilled, "HIS LAST CHANCE!" Don't A Townsend tottered to his bed. | miss it.)