BACK PLAY," BY J. W. ROBINSON, THE FAMOUS IN of Sport & Adventure. NG STORY OF LEAGUE FOOTBA

EVERY SATURDAY-ONE PENNY.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1909.

FERN

Instalment of CHARLES HAMILTON'S Rollicking School Tale.

THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS ARE: "HE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS ARE:
"THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS ARE:
"STATE THE STATE OF TH

Schlow and Brown.
Schlow and Brown.

18 a. procelly's there is a deadly and evertasting.

18 a. procelly's there is a deadly and evertasting.

18 a. process are the Clastical and Modern side.

18 a. deadly come and the second second

much results from both state, county and the the Chescals, to the rage and humilation of the Chescals, to the rage and humilation of the Solven.

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The state of the Chescals of th

gord N yausans and the school in time on a bike, Iritar gets back to the school in time on a bike, Iritar gets back to the school in time on a bike, let slades on returning is caught by his form-master, Wr. Ford. The latter cross-examines the boy, but Mr. Ford the boy, but Sider, preferring to shield his brother, refuses to urver. The next day Mr. Ford tasks Reddern better the badmatter, and Sidney sease expulsion looming

he badmaster, and Stoney sees expursion fooming nice. hearing that Sidney has been taken before be fled, is greatly alarmed about his chum, and taken a chum tedefen, in hopes that the roll own up, and thus clear Reddern minor, to hearing of the terrible position his brother is in Arthur needs back against the wall, with a white, set face.

(Nose read this week's instalment.)

eak or not to Speak!
RTHUR REDFERN seemed hardly to

RHHUR REDFERN seemed hardy to breath for the mouneat.
The blow was a staggering one.
He had been congratulating himself that the tanger was past, that he had pulled through the difficulties that beset him, that all we plain saling ahead.

But the words came like a bolt from the blocker's words came like a bolt from the

Ekclion's words came like a bolt from the blac.

He had, indeed, escaped; but all that he had esqued had fallon upon his younger brother. Reflera minor, instead of himself, was standing that merning arraigned before the Head.

The unfortunate prefect could not speak. The was the end of his security—this was the making the proof resolutions he had been making that morning. Everything was wrong again, and wave than ever.

What was he to do?

What was the to do?

What was the tod of the word of the word

Skellon was watching the prefect's face lacerly.

You tan't let Reddy be sacked," said the limit, at last. "He broke bounds to warn let him—" Hod your tongue!" said Ransome sharply. He was the said Ransome sharply. The said Ransome sharply said Ransome sharply. The said Ransome sharply said Ransome sharply. The said Ransome sharply sa

hat moment. Skelton was too anxious about is thum. We won't hold my tongue!" he cried. "And helpen major can't let Reddy be sacked. It also have been major can't let Reddy be sacked. It also he was to be sacked. It also have been supported by the sacked. It also have been supported by the sacked was you have been supported by the sacked was a been supported by the

You knew why—wby he came out!"

"How came he to be caught?"

How came he to be caught?"

Let we will be come in the Wyndale road, as which can be to will be a series of the come in. He caught him to come in. He caught him that window, him to come in. He caught him shadow is list the caught him can be to be come to will be a good in the series will be a good in the series will be a good in the series will be a good in the caught will be and gone have be cauture! If he had only known!

HM ewis

"And Sidney has told Mr. Ford nothing?"
Not a word! You know Reddy."
Not a word! You know Reddy."
And he's with the Head!"
After the with the Head!"
After Ford has just taken him in."
After he's pale face looked strangely old and worn, and the state of the state of

He looked at Ransome. The cad of the Sixth was looking very grave. He knew that with all his cunning he must tread warily now.

"What can I do, Ransome!"

"What can I do, Hansene!"
"I don't know."
Then Arthur burst out passionately.
"You don't know! You dragged me into
this. You know I didn't want to come to
Cunlifis's place last night. You dragged me
there. Now I've got into a horrible fix over it,
and ask your advice, you say coolly you don't
help." You ought to know. Why can't you
help."
"I'm willing enough to give advice, if you
like to take it, "ought help."
"Well, give it, anyway, hang you!"
"Let well alone," said Ransome. "You're
not called upon to ruin yourself for the sake of
a meddling kid. He oughth't to have been
caught. Why couldn't he have more sense!
"Brides, he was ruoning the risk for you. If

a meddling kid. He oughtn't to have been caught. Why couldn't he have more sense? "Besides, he was ruoning the risk for you. If you take it all off his shoulders, it's you running the risk for him, and you never asked him to interfere."

interest of firm, and you never asked him to interest or firm, and you never asked him to his fate?"

"I con't want you to do anything. It's no business of mine. You asked for my advice, and I've riven it."

I shall have to take it upon myrelf."

If Runsome had opposed him, Arthur would have become more and more obstinate. But the cac of the Sixth knew his man; he knew it all well enough, and he chose the opposite tack. As you like, of course," he said. "If it would have become you have not been and be appelled—go! You're your own master."

Arthur shivered.

There was a terrific yell from below. Herr Rhein-berger had put out his head just as Rodfern let go, and the baskst of tuck dropped fairly upen the head of the German master.

"Expelled! Of course, it would mean that."
"Of course it would-for you."
"And for him, too, I suppose," said Arthur

"Of course it would-for you."
And for him, too, I suppose," said Arthur angrily. And for him, too, I suppose," said Arthur angrily. not He's a junior, you're a senior and a prefect. There's extensiting circumstances for him-none for you have be allowed that. He may get off the sacking, especially if you speak for him."
Arthur started.
"It" he breathed.
"It" he breathed.
"It" he breathed. He wouldn't like to bring degrace of Head's. He wouldn't him, and promise to keep an eyeak for him, and promise to keep an eyeak for future, and generally dry-nurse him, think—this time for your rotten jokes, con-

I feel that I hate you sometimes, Ransome!" "I feel that I hat you sometimes, Ransome!" broke out Arthur.
Ransome laughed.
"Because I'm your best friend."
"My worst enemy, more likely. I can't do
it."

"What-own up?"
"No, hang you! I can't let Sidney suffer for

" Better think twice " " Hang it! If I think twice I shall play the cad, I know that. I'm going straight to the

cad, i know that. I'm going straight to the Harman as you choose. "Arthur gave him a latter look, and hesitated a moment; then he winn golf directly have and the schoolhouse, his face pale and set. By wards the schoolhouse, his face pale and set. By wards the schoolhouse, his face pale and set. By wards watched him with a cynucla smile on his line. "Tee to one he doesn't go into the house," he nurmured, "and a hundred to one in doesn't go to the Head's study."

And he watched the prefect with a mecking miterest. Arthur's steps slackened as he drew doesn't house—clower and slower. At the doesn't was house—clower and slower. At the doesn't was house—slower and slower. At the doesn't was house—slower and slower. At the doesn't was house—slower and slower. At the doesn't was house, he passed on, without entering the house.

Ransome smilled.

In the Punishment-room

In the Punishment-room.

CRANNTON had listened quietly to Mr. Ford's explanation. Reaftern minor stood silent, with a pale, troubled face and a beating heart, but an invincible resolution.

Well he knew the danger he stood in; but his determination was taken—he would utter. The Head turned in Jare his brother.

The Head turned in Jare his brother. The Head turned in Jare his profiler upon Reaftern minor. His eyes were very hard behind his gold-timmed pince-new very hard behind his said, Reddern?

"You have heard all that Mr. Ford has said, Reddern?

said. Reddern?"
"Yes, sir."
"Have you anything to say?"
"I am sorry, sir."
The Head's lips bardened.
"That is hardly sufficient. Reddern. The
"That is hardly sufficient. Reddern. The
soliton in which you stand is sufficient to
soliton in the school?"
"Yes, sir."

night from the school?"
"Yes, sir."
"You did so for, the purpose of visiting a disreputable alehouse at Wyndale?"
"Yes, sir."
"But you deny that you had friends among the habitues there, or that you went there for any unlawful purpose."
"But you cannot explain what your purpose was?"

"Nea. sir," said Redfern again.
But you cannot explain what your purpose
"No. sir."
"Is that all you have to say, Redfern?"
"That is all, sir."
"You know what the result must be?"
Redfern was silent.
"Redfern was silent.
Redfern was silent.
Redfern was silent.
The silent sil

"I am afraid. Redfern, that you are taxing my credulity too far. In any case, I can only deal with the facts, which you cannot explain

Redfern Minor (1998) Redfern Minor (1998) And the state of the filter of the state of the filter of the state of the filter of the state of the stat

lated the last and second of his edger brother, two to follow the example of his edger brother, two to a stand that through this bey I have been hed be a sea away from the school last stand of the sea away from the school last stand in the second by accelent, and did not return till late. I am a feat if allowed my repeabable one that this bey may have been to the second that the following the second that the second that the second that the second his property have been taking some that the second that the

hirrathlessly,
hipps interposed.
Keep lack, young gentlemen! You are
allowed to speak to Master Redfern.
Oh, shat up. Phippy.
Head's criters, ""
Head's criters, ""
demanded
stom healths.

"Where are you taking him?" demanded Stelton holdy. "Punishment room, sir." And Phipps burried his charge on, leaving the juniors staring. "My only half said Skelton. "Punishment room in the lies of the evany. Punishment room hand leep und only once since the punishment room hand leep und only once since the punishment room hand leep und only once since I've been at Nt. Bull?", and then it was for a chap who was going to be acaked. This means chap who w

going to be sacked!" said Brown

omily.
Sacked!" said Taffy, with a whistle.
That for!"

eaking bounds."

"The Fourth Form went into early leasons at morning in a perturbed frame of mind. was known through the whole Form that diem minor was in the punishment-room, d that it was expected that he would be acked."

sacked."
Mr. Ford had a difficult task with his class

Mr. Ford had a difficult task with his class that distributed in the Fourth Formers that the remove itself profit of the Fourth Formers that the ramour was current. Skelton and Brown were supposed to know more about the matter than the rest, as Redfern's chums, and they were assailed with necessant inquiries; but Skelton and Brown kept their own counsel. It was Redfern's series, and, sorely as they were tempted to tell the lasts in public, they were tempted to tell the lasts in public, they were tempted to tell the lasts in public, they were tempted to tell on the many their received no satisfaction from them. In the interest sented by Redfern's pilpth, even the distinction of Classicals and Moderns seemed to be forgotten.

distinction of Classicals and Moderns seemed to be forgated to be forgated to be forgated as the first as were just as anxious about Refer as were Skelton and Brown. The morning was a distracting one to Mr. Ford, and he was glad when he demined his class.

The juniors, equally glad to be released, poured out into the quadrangle, and the one topic of discussion was Reddy and Reddy's bad

Taffy & Co. collared Skelton in the quad. sany a to collered Skelton in the quad, and insisted upon an explanation. "What's the row?" demanded Taffy, clutch-ing Skelton by the shoulder. "What's the matter with Reddy! What did he break bounds for!"

"You'd better tell us," said Taffs. "You see, at may be able to get old Reddy out of the arrate. You Classical chairs can't manage of the course."
Then its jolly sure you Commercial assessmentally be able to."

thin't be able to?

If you want a thick car, Skelton—

"Bright and "Bright and All Vernon mildly.
"Bas, the pres' said, Vernon mildly.
"We don't have for row now. There's Reddy
to be though of. He's in the punishmenttreom. He's or punishment diet. You know
hat that is bread and scrapp and sack fee,
"Just what I was going to say," remarked

"Just what I want Spratt, with an expression of prhaine concern. "Blessed if the Fourth our stand at I would be about at I want to the Head on the subject." and Benson.

what for any deputation. What fire and Benson.

the subject?

Hear, hear?

Hear, hear?

Rothers, But it's much on Reddy. We consist to set to speak to hum, and set if we can dearwhing for him.

And the crule, don't forget that, said And the crule, don't forget that, said Speat anxway.

We constit to set any don't forget that, said speat anxway.

We constitute that the set we can speak to him, letter the set of the

Skeinswar. Brown and I will go."
If the leave it to us," suggested Taffy,
"It's better for senable chaps to deal with a
delicate matter like this chermatis."
"Oh, you go and stown entered the house.
Taffy A Chermatis to the story of the st

"Jolly good?"

The juniors harried on. They reached the end of the passage in a few seconds, and Skelton and Taffy larged at the door to exther. Skelton placed at Taffy, and Taffy glared at him. What did you tap for, you Welsh rabbit?"

What did you tap for, you Yorkshire dampling?"

"Phipps may be here

"Hallo"
"Are you all right?"
"Oh, right as rain—I don't think?"
"Hunger, I suppose?"
"Vee, rather."
"We're going to get you some grub some.
"We're going to get you some grub some.
"We're going to get you some grub some.
"We'll guilden hurriedly. "We'll
menage it. I suppose Pilips has the key of this

menance it. I suppose Phipps has the key of this lock?

"Mich red it in at the window, then. Have you a gord?"

"I've got a piece of twine."

"I've got a piece of twine."

"I've got a piece of twine."

"I've got a piece of twine window, and red it window, and I'll tie a cord on it, and you can pull that up, and then a bundle of grub.

"Thanks availut, old chap! You re a Briton! I'm deared peckish, and no mistake!"

Can we do anything for you, besides the gruy.

"Suppose I tell Feet the gray the suppose I tell feet the gray of th

pose I tell Ford about it....." never speak to you again if you do.

"I'll never epeak to you again, if you do. Mind, you've promised."
"You'll be sacked, Reddy."
"You'll be sacked, Reddy."
"You're an ass!"
"Thank you!"
"Here, let me have a word with him." said Taffy, pulling Skelton away from the keyhole.
"I expect I could manage to get him off..."
"Get away."
"You get away, you duffer! I want to speak

"Lego, you Molern awan to speak
"Lego, you Molern awan";
"Rate, you Classical dummy!"
"Rate, you Classical dummy!"
"Skelton gave Taify a shove, and Taify dragged
Skelton over with him. Both of them were getting excited, and the next moment-one hardly
knew low-they were rolling on the floor in
"Hallo!" "wane Reelfern's voice through the
keylole, "What the dickens is that row
about?"

ounds for!"
"That's lelling!"
"That's lelling!"
"That's lelling!"
"Well, tell us."
"It's Reddy's secret."
"Reddy's secret."
"More rats, then!" said Skelton cheerfully.
"More rats, then!" said Skelton cheerfully. about?"

There was no reply, save a sound of grunting and sculling. Then suddenly Vernon uttered an exclamation:

reinds in Nood.

AFFY dracged himself losse from Skelton and jumped up. There was an erre of red frost his nees, and on of Skeltonic and jumped up. There was an erre of red frost his nees, and on of Skeltonic and the secretary of the secretary

It's all right, Phippy," he said of I'm still here!" Phipps looked at him suspiciously, "Them young at him suspiciously,

"Them young gentlemen have been a talking to you through the keyhole, Master Redfern,"

"The shit interest at him suspicensity."

"There could be keyhole, Master Redfern."

"Is hall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"I shall keep an eye eyen for them now."

"In the shall keep an eye eyen for the house porter was closing the door. "I'm hungts."

"Put him in the punishment-room, on the punishment diet, says the 'Ead," replied Phipps.

"Ves. I suppose so," assented Redfern. "I don't want to get you into a row. Roll along with the bread and seraps."

"Yes, I suppose so," assented Redfern. "I don't want to get you into a row. Roll along with the bread and cheese for his dinner. Bread and cheese was a nourishing diet enough; but the hungry junior thought of the well-spread table in the dinner-hall, and mouth watered. As soon as Phippe stay, sone, he crossed to the window and booked out, stand-line on the first of the proof portion of the quadrangle, and he caught sight of some Fifth-Form boys punting alout a football, the first punishment-room. There were plenty of fellows in the quadrangle, and he caught sight of some Fifth-Form boys punting alout a football, the first punishment of the lease. It had been looking forward numbers as of the season. A cloud crossed the junior's face. He had been looking forward in the first face of the lates. The number was the window of Herr hearners of a big elm. Redfern booked onto the third floor of the looked onto an interest were the window after his hunch.

Redfern looked onton anxiously for some sign of his friends in the quad. The onton the analyst is add Redfern. "Did you," Thanks a wfully it said Redfern. "Did you," Thanks a wfully it said Redfern. "Did you,"

from the window. Phipps entered with a plate of bread and cluces, none too liberal in quantity.

"There you are, Master Redfern."

"Thanks awfully!" said Redfern. "Did you carry that up alone, Phippy! Sit down and rest for a minute or two."

"I'm worry it's no more, Master Redfern."

"Perhaps it will be more soon, old son," murmured Redfern to himself, as the house porter retired and locked the door behind him.

Redfern nibbled the bread and cheese, and watched from the window. Suddenly his eyes gleamed. It was past two o'clock, and the time was drawing near for afterneon lessons. But his friends had one of the house came Skelton and Taffy, and the latter was carrying a basket in his hand. The basket was closed; but Redfern knew that it was packed with "tuck."

Taffy glaned up at the window, and looked relieved when he saw. Redfern on the watch. Redfern from ratsing he seed the work of the red was a basket from the school tuckshop, and Redfern from ratsing he seed to the work. The bar across the window did not prevent Redfern from ratsing he seed the hand to the woo juniors below. The Classical and the Modern leaders had evidently made it "par," for the sake of helping Redfern in the time of trouble.

Skelton waved back, with a grin. He dared

trouble.

Skelton waved back, with a grin. He dared not call out, for fear that his voice would be heard. The big elu-free screened the juniors from view in the quad, but they would have been quite visible to anybody looking out of Herr Rheinberger's window.

At that window Taffy and Skelton looked very dubicastly.

The statement of risk in sending up the

If the German missier, were there, there was a certain amount of risk in sending up the basket of provisions, which would have to be drawn up directly in front of his window. Yet it would go up so quickly, that doubtless he would not notice it. Then, the risk had to be run, if the basket was to be conveyed to Reddy at all.

run, it the basket was to be conveyed to steady
Redfern drew a long twin from his pecket,
and tied a penknife on the end as a weight,
and allowed it to slide from his window.
Skelton caught the penknife as it came
within reach, and detached it, securing the
light string. To the end of the string he tied
a cord, by which Reddy was to draw up the
basket. He also pinned a piece of paper,
Then he are the string.
The string and the cord
Redfern pulled up the string, and the cord
followed. He caught the end of the cord, and
gave it a turn round his wrist for security,
and then detached Skelton's note.

It was a brief note, in a sprawling hand.

The Boys' Realm.

"Levels out for old Variation of the community of the com

whisk it up to his window as standardly which sible. Steadily the basket rose in the sir. Steadily the basket rose in the sir. Redfern pulled it up slowly and the standard standard the standard standar

ow.
It rose as high as Herr Rheinbergers

It rose as mgu as dow-sill.
Skelton drew a quick breath, "Now's the time!" he muttered.
Reddy!"
No sign of the herr yet."

Reday.

No sign of the herr yet.

No sign of the herr yet.

Redfern pulled more quickly on the same and the s

It!"
The fat face of the German master ide peared at the window. He was locking at through the glass, and he caught a through the bottom of the basket as it floated was

past the top panes.

For a moment the German was thanked.

Then he threw up the sash of his winder of put his shead out, it discover what we as strange object that had floated past in se.

dow.

As he heard the sash go, Skelton the in his hand in a frantic signal to Redin, at dedged behind the tree.

Redlern was watching Skelton, salagh a signal, and he obeyed it. The armoun was to let the basket go if Skelton nedin

Redfern let it go instantly, and dre to from the window.

Crash!
There was a terrific yell from below.
Herr Rheinberger had put out is he just as Redfern let the basket drop, all basket of tuck dropped fairly upon the se of the German maker.

"Arch! Own hat!" gasped Taffy. "Belyl done it now."

(Another ratiling long instalment nest in farnet to bus a copy of No. 3 of "THE BOYS FOOTBALL LIBRARY. Now on sale-[d.]

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