

# Two Grand School Stories This Week!

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B.H. 224.

The **Boys' Herald** 1<sup>d</sup>

EVERY BOY'S AND YOUNG MAN'S  
STORY AND HOBBY PAPER.



No 224, Vol. V.

EVERY WEDNESDAY—ONE PENNY.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 2, 1907.

## The **TERROR** of the **REMOVE**

A ROUSING SCHOOL TALE

By David Goodwin.

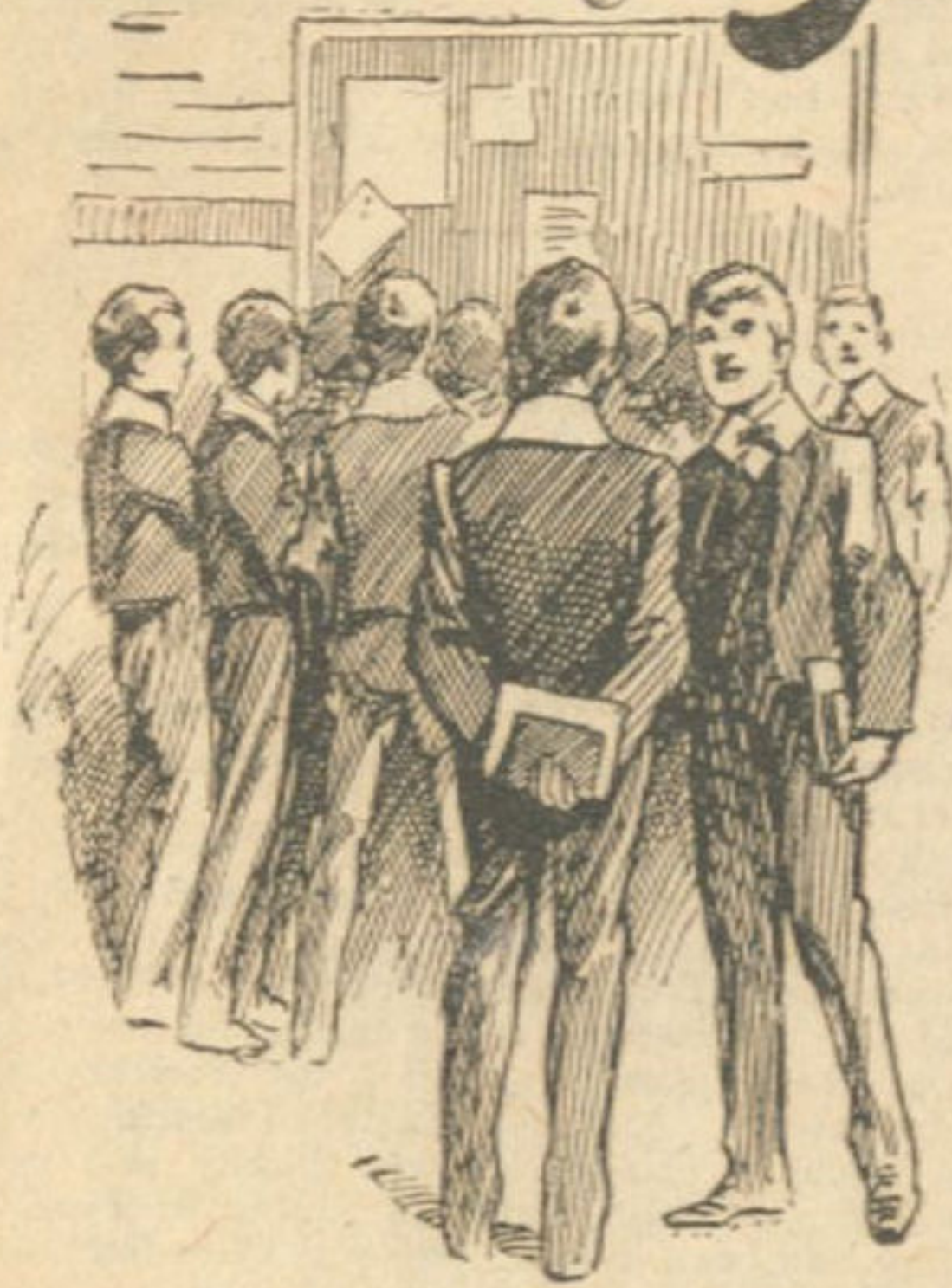


**TAFFY & Co. RENDER A PART SONG!**

The bottles were placed in a row on the desk, and Taffy, Dereker, and Birne, glancing at each other solemnly, struck up the well-known part song—"Come, landlord, fill the flowing bowl until it doth run over"—"That will do! That will do!" cut in the Head hastily.



# The Fourth Form Football Club



Another Laughable, Complete Tale of the Chums at Cliveden College.

By CHARLES HAMILTON.

## The 1st Chapter. Rival Candidates

**H**ALLO! What's on?" Pankhurst of the Fourth asked the question as he came out of the Fourth Form room at Cliveden College, and observed the crowd of juniors gathered before the school notice-board in the hall.

The crowd was large, and was growing larger every moment. The fellows were craning over one another's shoulders to read, so it was evident that there was an announcement of unusual interest posted on the board.

"Something a bit unusual," said Price, Pankhurst's inseparable chum. "Let's go and have a look, anyway."

"Come on," said Pankhurst, with a slight wrinkle appearing on his brow. "I shouldn't wonder if it's something about the election, with those kids in No. 4 at the bottom of it."

Pankhurst and Price pushed their way towards the notice-board. It was not easy to get near, through the crowd, but Pankhurst and Price went at it shoulder to shoulder, and by a judicious and forcible use of the elbows, cleared a way. There were indignant protests on all sides, but that did not trouble the serenity of Pankhurst and Price.

Arrived before the notice-board, the chums of the Fourth had a good view of the announcement which had excited so much interest amongst the juniors.

"I thought so!" growled Pankhurst, reading the signatures at the bottom of the notice first. "Dick Neville, Micky Flynn, and Lincoln G. Poindexter! I knew those kids were up to something."

"It's about the election, too," said Price. "Yes, listen to what the cheeky young wasters have to say!"

Pankhurst read through the notice with frowning brows.

It was worded as follows:

**"NOTICE!**

**"TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN!!!**  
"Carrington, the late captain of the Fourth Form Football Club, having honoured the Shell by removing into it, the post of captain of the F.F.F.C. is now vacant.

"An election will be held as usual to fill the vacant post, and the members of the F.F.F.C. have agreed that the said election shall take place on Saturday afternoon next.

"We, the undersigned, having the true interests of the Fourth Form and the grand old game of football at heart, desire that a captain shall be elected who can be relied upon to carry on the great traditions of the Fourth Form at Cliveden.

"For this reason Richard Neville, Esq., of No. 4 study, has kindly come forward, in response to very pressing invitations, as a candidate for the post.

"Gentlemen of the Fourth Form are invited to vote for Richard Neville, Esq., and reform. They are advised to be careful how they give their votes to a certain sandy-mopped individual who has had the unparalleled cheek to come forward as a candidate.

"A meeting of the electors will be held in the Fourth Form room at 6.30, when the claims of the People's Candidate will be explained to the enlightened electorate.

Signed, DICK NEVILLE,  
MICKY FLYNN,  
LINCOLN G. POINDEXTER."

"My hat!" said Price. "What cheek. Fancy Dick Neville having the cheek to put up for football captain! I knew he was a cheeky kid, but I hardly thought he'd go so far as that."

"Oh, he was bound to," grinned Pankhurst. "When I put in my name it was certain that No. 4 study wouldn't let it be a walk-over for me."

"Of course, he's got no chance."  
"Absolutely none."  
"He'll only make himself look an ass."  
"A perfectly awful ass."

These remarks were made in loud tones, for the benefit of the juniors standing round. Pankhurst had put in his name as candidate for the vacant

post, and till now no rival had appeared in the field. As every member of the Fourth Form Football Club was allowed a vote at the election, and the football club included nearly all the form, the question was one of general interest to the Fourth.

"A meeting of the electors, hey?" said Pankhurst, with a sniff. "Nobody will go, of course."  
"Won't they?" said Jeffreys of the Fourth.  
"Not half! I'm going!"

"So am I!" "And I!" "And I!"

"What rot," said Pankhurst. "Dick Neville simply hasn't an earthly. Still, perhaps one may as well hear what he's got to say. We'll go, Price, and see fair play. Perhaps we ought to be on the scene, to keep him in order."

"Righto," said Price.

And the two walked away together, leaving the crowd of juniors still reading and discussing the notice on the board. It was generally agreed that the election would have been a walk-over for Pankhurst with any rival but Dick Neville. Dick was the only fellow in the Fourth who had a chance of wresting the captaincy from Pankhurst, and he had a good chance. He was as popular in the Form as his rival, and was considered to be quite as good a footballer, if not a trifle better.

The fact that these two especial candidates had come forward gave the matter an additional interest in the eyes of the juniors. For there was a long-standing rivalry between No. 4 study and No. 10. Dick Neville, Micky Flynn, and Lincoln G. Poindexter of Chicago—known as the Combine,—regarded themselves as the heads of the Fourth, a claim which was considered quite inadmissible by Pankhurst and Price, who had aspirations in that direction themselves. The feud between No. 4 and No. 10 added to the liveliness of life in the Fourth Form at Cliveden.

There was a wrinkle on Pankhurst's brow as he walked away with Price.

"I might have expected this," he remarked. "In fact, I did expect it. I wouldn't say so before those kids, Price, old man, but as a matter of fact, Dick Neville has quite as much chance of becoming captain as I have."

"Quite as much," said Price.

"We shall have to do a lot of electioneering to carry the election," went on Pankhurst. "It's going to be hard work, but we've got to do it. If Neville got in, we should have no end of crowing from No. 4."

cess, so far, than the chums of No. 4 study had anticipated. Dick Neville, Micky Flynn, and Lincoln G. Poindexter stood together on the raised dais, before which nearly the whole of the Fourth Form at Cliveden were assembled.

The Combine were in high spirits. Dick Neville, a fair-haired, well-built lad, Micky Flynn, a merry-faced Irish boy, and Lincoln G. Poindexter, a slim, keen, intelligent fellow from the "States," were the "Combine," and a splendid trio they were.

The notice put on the board in the hall had had complete effect. The Combine had hoped to draw about half the Form to the meeting—their own friends and sympathisers mainly, but they had, in fact, attracted nearly the whole. This meant that Pankhurst's supporters had come to hear what Dick had to say for himself, and such of them as had an open mind on the subject might be won over—so the Combine hoped.

Poindexter was a little uneasy as he saw Pankhurst and Price surrounded by their friends, in a group. The two red-haired youths were looking very amiable and innocent, it is true, but the keen American scented mischief.

"On an important subject," said Dick Neville, looking round. "No less a subject than the impending election."

"Hear, hear!" "Carrington has been shoved into the Shell, and the post of captain is vacant. Having the interests of the Form at heart, I have come forward—"

"Hear, hear!" "And now I offer myself as candidate. I don't want to brag—"

"Turned over a new leaf?" inquired Pankhurst, in a friendly tone as of one who simply wanted information.

There was a general chuckle, and Dick turned red.

"I don't want to brag," he went on firmly, "but common-sense and common truthfulness compel me to admit that I should make a better captain for the Fourth than any red-haired freak in Cliveden."

"Order!"

"No personalities!"

"I withdraw the expression," said Dick gracefully. "You all know to whom I refer, and that's enough. And—and that's all I've got to say."

"Quite enough, too," remarked Price. Lincoln G. Poindexter stepped forward.

"No end," agreed Price.  
"And the first business is to get our backers together, and break up their meeting," said Pankhurst.  
"We'll make a fearful row and stop them from speaking, and make the whole thing a frost generally. That's the first move."  
"Righto," said Price.

## The 2nd Chapter. A Stormy Meeting.

**G**ENTLEMEN of the Fourth Form Football Club!

"Hear, hear!" "I rise to address you—"

"Hear, hear!" "On an important subject—"

"Hear, hear!" The room was crowded. The meeting was a greater success,

so far, than the chums of No. 4 study had anticipated. Dick Neville, Micky Flynn, and Lincoln G. Poindexter stood together on the raised dais, before which nearly the whole of the Fourth Form at Cliveden were assembled.

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"Quite enough, too," remarked Price. Lincoln G. Poindexter stepped forward.

"I guess I want to propose Dick Neville for the post of captain," he exclaimed, in his drawing voice; "I can recommend him. He's the real white article, all wool, and a yard wide. I guess I know what I'm talking about, gentlemen. If you don't elect him, I guess you'll be a silly lot."

"Polite," said Price. "I want to ask the speaker a question," exclaimed Pankhurst, pushing forward.

The American looked at him. "You can fire away, Panky."  
"Will you answer it?"  
"Yes; if it's one I can answer."

"Oh, you can answer it all right! Does your candidate approve of tinned beef as an article of diet for footballers?"

A howl of laughter followed the question. It was really a most ridiculous question, but any allusion to tinned beef was understood as a dig at the youth from Chicago, it being well known at Cliveden that Poindexter's "popper" had made his "pile" in the canning trade.

"Look here!" exclaimed Poindexter wrathfully. "If you can't talk sense—"

"I demand an answer to my question," said Pankhurst. "You needn't try to wriggle out of it, Puntbuster! Does your candidate approve—"

"Ha, ha! Good old Tinned Beef!" howled the electorate.

"Does your candidate approve—"

"I guess that—"

"Does your candidate—"

"Ha, ha, ha!"

"If that interrupter will kindly come up here," shouted Poindexter, "I shall be very pleased to knock him into the middle of next week."

"Ha, ha, ha! Good old Tinned Beef!"

"I demand silence while I—"

"Yah!"

"I—"

"Yah! Who's going to vote for the Tinned Beef candidate?"

"Sure, and it's fair play we want!" exclaimed Micky Flynn. "This is our meeting, you spalpeens, and if you can't keep quiet, just get outside."

"The blessed Form room doesn't belong to you!" retorted Pankhurst. "We've as much right here as you have, or rather more, as we represent the Form."

"You! You represent a budding lunatic asylum."

"Get out!" shouted Poindexter. "You've come here to interrupt. If you don't shut up or get out you will be warmed."

"My hat!" exclaimed Pankhurst. "Listen to the voice of authority! He thinks he's back in the tinned-beef factory, giving his orders about potting the horses."

The juniors yelled with laughter.

The trio on the dais consulted. Pankhurst and his friends were as numerous, at least, as the backers of Dick Neville, and it was impossible to put them out without a free fight. But to hold the meeting with them in the room was evidently quite as impossible.

"It's got to be did, I guess," declared Poindexter. "I say, kids, we're going to shove out that gang of roughs. Come on, shoulder to shoulder!"

"Bravo!"

"Rats!"

"Down with the Tinned Beef candidate!"

The Combine made a rush at Pankhurst and Price. The group of Pankhurstites were driven towards the door; but they rallied, and a general mêlée ensued.

Dick Neville got Pankhurst's head in chancery, and Price, in return, paid the same polite attention to Micky Flynn. Lincoln G. Poindexter, who was a good man with his fists, hit out right and left, and the Neville party backed him up strongly.

The interrupters were driven towards the door again. It looked as if they would be hurled pell-mell into the passage. But Pankhurst, tearing himself loose from Dick, shouted to his followers, and rallied them in the doorway, and there a desperate struggle took place. Although it was, in the main, a good-humoured tussle, a good many hard knocks were given and received. There was nothing "soft" about the juniors of Cliveden.

"Sock it into them!" shouted Poindexter.

"Knock 'em down!"

"Yah! Down with Dick Neville and Tinned Beef!" shouted Pankhurst.

But, with a great effort, the Combine and their party hurled the interrupters forth. At the same moment a furious prefect, attracted by the terrific noise, came along the passage with a cane, and the hurled-forth juniors went bumping into him.

"Look out!" exclaimed Price. "It's Grahame!"

"You young rascals!" shouted Grahame, who had the reputation of being the worst-tempered prefect at Cliveden. "I'll teach you to make that fearful row! You little beasts!"

And he lashed right and left with the cane.

Pankhurst got a cut across the calves that made him jump, and Lincoln Poindexter received the next. Dick Neville and Price also came in for a share.

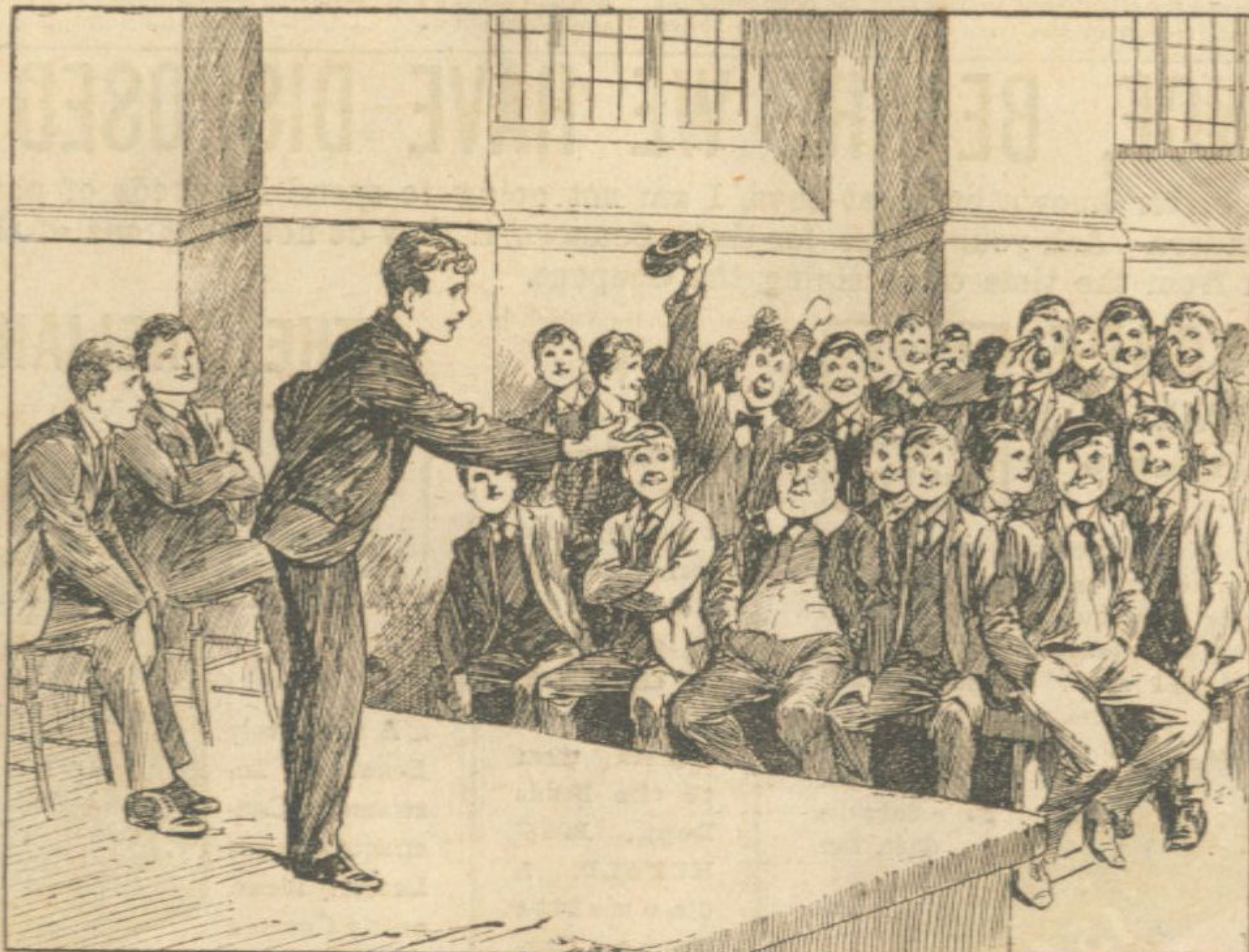
"Here, steady on with that cane!" shouted Dick. "Keep off the grass, Grahame, or you will get hurt!"

That remark from a junior was quite enough to give Grahame's anger the finishing touch. He turned upon Dick, lashing savagely.

"I guess that's going to stop," said Poindexter. And he took a sudden hold of the prefect's collar, and jerked him away.

Grahame swung round on him, but Pankhurst put out his foot, and the senior sprawled over it, and went with a crash to the floor.

That was enough for the Cliveden juniors. Their dreaded enemy was down, and in a second



"The post of captain of the football club is vacant," said Dick Neville. "Having the interests of the Form at heart, I have come forward, and offer myself as a candidate. I don't want to brag—" "Turned over a new leaf?" softly inquired Pankhurst, from amongst the audience.



**The Fourth Form Football Club.**

(Continued from the previous page.)

the combatants, forgetting their mutual enmity, were swarming over him.

"Pax, you kids!" shouted Poindexter. "Pax, old Panky! Let's look after this terror."

"Righto!" grinned Pankhurst. "Sit on him!"

The juniors did sit on him. They pinned the unfortunate prefect down by sheer weight, and Grahame puffed and gasped under them like a grampus.

"Get off his head, kids," said Dick Neville; "we mustn't quite suffocate him. Grahame, old dear, how dare you come into the Fourth Form room in such a bad temper!"

"I'll—I'll—I'll—"

"Don't you know that the Fourth Form room is sacred territory?" demanded Dick severely. "Can you, a prefect, be so ignorant of one of the most important rules of the college?"

Grahame gurgled something indistinctly. "Grahame, I insist upon a direct answer—yes or no? Were you aware that it is strictly forbidden for a Sixth-former, or any other unimportant person, to set foot in the Fourth Form room without humbly asking permission?"

"You—you young hound! I'll—"

"That is no answer. You are evidently intentionally guilty of disrespect towards the most important Form in Cliveden College. You are sentenced to die the death."

"You—you—you— Let me get up, or I'll be the death of you!"

"Gentlemen of the Fourth Form, it is our painful duty to give a lesson to Grahame of the Sixth," said Dick Neville. "We are sorry, but we must not neglect our duty towards the upper forms."

"Ha, ha, ha!"

"You young hound—"

"Ha, ha, ha!"

"Grahame must, therefore, be taught to respect the privileges of the Fourth. Pankhurst, old chap, hand over that inkpot. I have known a gentle trickle of ink down a fellow's back to have a wonderful effect upon him. I am going to try it on Grahame."

Grahame wriggled spasmodically. "You dare! You villains! You young villains!"

"Buck up with that inkpot, Panky!"

"Here you are, Neville."

Dick took the inkpot. Whether he intended to carry out his playful threat or not the prefect did not know; but he knew Dick Neville had nerve enough for anything. He struggled violently, and jolted Dick, with the result that half the contents of the inkpot jerked out and splashed over the face of the prostrate senior.

Grahame gave a fiendish yell. "Ow! O-O-O-Oh! You—ow!"

"Ha, ha, ha! That was clumsy of you, Grahame. Hold him, kids."

"We've got him!" panted Micky Flynn. "Sure the baste struggles like a wild elephant."

"Keep still, Grahame. It is my painful duty as captain of the Fourth—"

"As what?" exclaimed Pankhurst.

"As captain of the Fourth—"

"Rats! Rats! More rats!"

"Did you say 'rats' to me, Pankhurst?"

"Yes, I said rats to you. And I say rats again," said Pankhurst, with emphasis.

"Are you looking for a thick ear?"

"Yes, if you can give me one."

"I'll jolly soon do that!"

"Come on and do it, then."

The rivals were locked in a fast embrace the next moment. Grahame made a desperate effort and this time he was able to get loose. He sprang up and rushed to the door.

"He's going!" yelled Poindexter.

Dick and Pankhurst separated at once, re-

membering themselves; but Grahame was gone. He streaked down the passage as the juniors rushed to the door.

"My hat!" gasped Dick. "We had better go too, kids, before he comes back with reinforcements. I'm afraid we forgot that the rotter was a prefect."

The advice was too good to be neglected. The meeting was abandoned; the fight postponed. The Fourth Formers decamped in haste, and the Form room was left empty.

But Grahame did not return. The ridiculous side of the matter occurred to him, and he shrank from allowing his form-fellows to know how he had been handled by a set of juniors. He allowed the matter to drop, rather than cut a ridiculous figure in the eyes of the Sixth—much to the relief of the Fourth Formers.

**The 3rd Chapter.**

**Pankhurst Has a Plan.**

PANKHURST and Price sat in No. 10 study a couple of evenings after the uproarious meeting in the Form room, busy with pencil and paper.

There was a thoughtful frown upon the manly brow of Pankhurst, and Price wore a worried look.

They were making calculations. The election day was drawing nigh, and both parties had been canvassing for votes, and it was pretty certain that the election would be a near thing.

Pankhurst looked up from his paper, and caught Price's eye as the latter sat chewing the stump of his pencil.

"Well, how do you work it out?" he asked.

"I feel certain of sixteen," said Price.

Pankhurst nodded.

"Just the figure I make it. There are sixteen we can count on for certain: most of them have already promised their votes. But I know for a fact that eighteen have promised Dick Neville."

Price made a long face.

"That's bad."

"Oh, that's not conclusive by a long chalk," said Pankhurst, confidently. "I think we shall pull it off yet."

"I don't see how. Have you got an idea?"

"Yes, and a jolly good ripping one."

Price looked puzzled.

"Well, I don't see it," he remarked. "There are thirty-eight members of the Fourth Form Football Club, and they have one vote each. Sixteen are solid for you, and eighteen for Neville. That leaves two, besides the two candidates themselves. The odd two, even if they voted for you, would only make a tie in the voting."

"That's so."

"But, as a matter of fact," went on Price, "they're more likely to vote for Neville. They're King and Medway; and King is a greedy beast and would vote for anyone who stood him a feed on election day. Poindexter would do that easily."

"But Medway—"

"He won't vote for you, Panky, because you said some true things about his concertina," said Price, shaking his head. "You know he used to come into No. 11 when it was empty and practise, and you know we had to drive him out."

Pankhurst nodded gloomily.

"Yes. If I had foreseen this election I might have put up with his beastly concertina," he remarked. "He's never played it to Neville, so Neville won't have hurt his feelings. Do you know, Price, I actually heard the Yankee saying to Medway yesterday that he liked music, and the concertina more than any other instrument?"

"The double-dyed prevaricator!"

"I'm afraid we must count in King and Medway on the tinned beef side," said Pankhurst, regretfully. "I've fed King three times this week, but he won't definitely promise, and I know for a fact that Poindexter has been standing him things in the tuck shop four or five times.

There's no telling how he'll vote—according to the last feed, I expect."

"Very likely. That will make twenty against your sixteen, if they both vote for Neville," said Price, with a shake of his head, "and at the best it can only be a tie, and then the captain of the school will give a casting vote."

"Didn't I tell you I had an idea," grinned Pankhurst. "A really new, ripping, gilt-edged, copper-bottomed idea, that will knock the opposing party into the middle of next week, or further still along the giddy calendar."

"Blessed if I can guess what it is," said Price.

"Listen to me, then, while I explain. There are thirty-eight members of the Fourth Form Football Club; but these members do not include the whole of the Fourth Form. The Form itself numbers forty-three kids."

"I know that," said Price; "but the odd five are no good, as only the members of the Form Football Club are allowed to vote for the club captain."

Pankhurst grinned the grin of superior sagacity. "My dear chap, you don't catch on. Suppose these five members of the honourable Fourth Form, who do not at present belong to the club, were to join?"

Price started.

"But they won't!"

"Why won't they?"

"Why, for lots of reasons. Hill and Simpson are two lazy wasters who don't believe in playing football at all. Hobbs is too poor to pay his subscription. Gatty and Greene are two indoor hobbyists, and don't take any interest in the game, or in anything but philately and photography."

"I know all that, kid. But though they won't join the club of their own accord I think it very likely that they might be persuaded to."

"How are you going to persuade them?"

"Look here. Suppose there were any fellows too stupid or too lazy to play such a grand game as football, wouldn't it be a meritorious action to yank them into a football club, somehow or anyhow?"

"Of course it would."

"Even if one had to pay their subscriptions oneself?"

"My hat!"

"You see the wheeze? Hobbs is too poor to pay his whack, but he'd tumble over himself to get into the club if a friend paid it for him. The other four would be glad enough to be in the club, if only for the look of the thing, but as they don't play they regard it as a waste of money, and they haven't much tin. They would come in fast enough if they could get in on the nod—if it were put delicately, of course."

"Very likely."

"If I turn on my persuasive eloquence, and pay the subscriptions, they'll join right enough," said Pankhurst, confidently; "and when they've joined they have votes like the rest. They would be bound to vote for me out of common decency. Of course I shouldn't ask them to. I should ride the high horse, and work off the high-minded, disinterested, good little Georgie wheeze. I should beg of them to vote as a matter of duty, and not to consider me at all. But if they didn't consider me they would be howling rotters all the same, and I fancy I could count upon them."

"It's a splendid wheeze, Panky, but—but—"

"But what? Don't you think it will work?"

"Yes; but—but wouldn't it come under the head of—of bribery?"

Pankhurst nodded thoughtfully.

"I've thought about that," he replied. "Of course I couldn't touch anything that had the least suspicion of bribery about it."

"Of course not," agreed Price, solemnly.

"But this isn't, you see. It's a meritorious action to pay the football subscriptions for a chap who is hard up; and if I can make a player of a chap who doesn't play now it will be a jolly big feather in my cap."

"That's true enough."

"So the question comes to this: am I to avoid doing a good work because I shall benefit by it?" said Pankhurst.

"Well, that's a jolly good way of putting it," said Price. "Besides, those bouncers in No. 4 are pretty certain to be up to some game, if we are not."

"That's certain. I intend to always play the game, but it's no good neglecting chances. I really think the wheeze is all right. And now let's go and see about getting it in working order. We shall have to keep it awfully dark, so that the tinned beef party won't smell a rat."

"What ho!" said Price. And Pankhurst and Price left the study on business.

**The 4th Chapter.**

**Electioneering.**

"EIGHTEEN!" said Poindexter, running his eye over a list of names on a paper in his hand, as he stood with his chums in the quadrangle. "We've got eighteen promises, kids."

"Good," said Micky Flynn. "Sure and Pankhurst can't possibly get more than that, if all the rest of the club vote for him."

Dick Neville looked thoughtful.

"But if he got the two others, and tied, it would be rotten," he remarked. "According to custom here, Trevelyan, the captain of Cliveden, would give the casting vote to decide the question, and whichever one he decided for it would be unsatisfactory. And, as a matter of fact, as there isn't much to choose between Panky and me, he would probably decide in favour of Panky, because he's been a term longer at Cliveden than I have."

"That would be rotten," Poindexter remarked. "We must make sure of King and Medway, kids. I know how to do it; and though it means a lot of suffering, it can be done."

"As for King, he'll vote for me if he's filled up with free tommy," said Dick thoughtfully. "That sounds like bribery, but I know for a fact that Pankhurst has been feeding him. What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander."

"Exactly. That's my idea. I've got heaps of tin, and I'll take King to the tuck-shop and feed him up to the chin," said Poindexter. "If I keep it going till he can't cram in another cream puff, I believe I shall get his promise."

"That's right. But what about Medway? He can't be fed into voting."

"No; but there's another way. You know that horrible concertina of his?"

Dick shuddered.

"Yes, rather!"

"Well, he fell out with Pankhurst over that at one time, so that's a point in our favour. He used to practise in the study next to Panky's when it was empty, I hear, and he nearly got slain."

"Serve him right."

"True enough, I guess; but we mustn't say so—not till after he's voted, at all events," grinned Poindexter. "I've thought of a way of getting round the beast. You know he's quarrelled with his study-mates because they won't stand the concertina. He can't find anybody in the Form to stand it. He's in search of a kindred spirit—someone with a soul for music of that sort. If he found 'em, he'd love 'em."

"And kill 'em," said Dick, "with his concertina."

"Yes, perhaps, if he were given rope enough. But the election is on Saturday, and this is Thursday. You wouldn't have to bear it long."

"I! What do you mean?"

"I mean that while I'm feeding up King at the tuck-shop, you two have got to ask Medway to come and give you a selection on the concertina in No. 4 study," said Poindexter coolly.

"Never! Oh, never!"

"Sure, and we can't," pleaded Micky Flynn. "Ask anything else, Puntpusher darlint—"

"Nothing else will do," said Poindexter firmly. "I'm running this thing to help you, Dick, and you've got to help yourself. Let

(Continued on the next page.)

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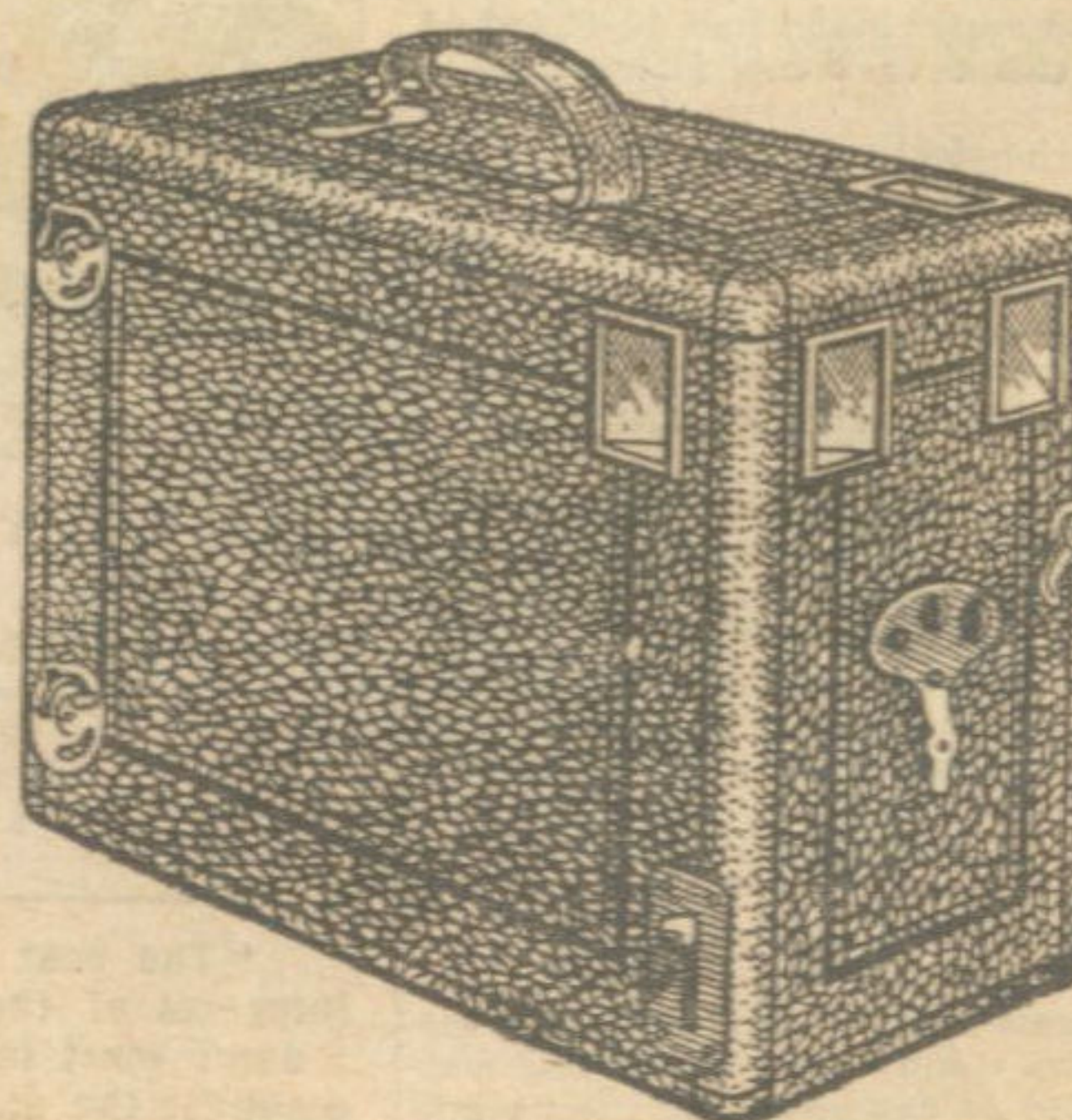
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"Isn't it? You stand it, then, while I feed up King."

"Oh, that's rot, I guess! It's my idea, and I ought to be allowed to work it out as I think best. Fair's fair."

"I say, I've forgotten something! I must be off!" murmured Micky Flynn.

Poindexter caught him by the arm and stopped him.

"No, you mustn't," he said coolly.

"But it's important!"

"It won't wash, kid; it's too thin," said Poindexter, shaking his head. "You're not going to get out of it like that. I tell you the election depends upon it. If we get King and Medway, Pankhurst is done brown. It's worth it."

Dick sighed.

"I suppose so," he murmured. "But it's hard—hard! I'm so young to die! Never mind, I'll stick it. Come on, Micky; let's get it over."

"But, I say—"

"Nuff said! Let's get the awful experience over!"

Poindexter grinned as Dick and Micky marched off in search of Medway, looking as if they were going to execution.

"I guess we shall pull off this election," murmured the cute youth from Chicago. "Now to find King and feed him up to the promising point."

He soon found King; he knew where to look for him. The bright youth was hanging round the tuckshop as usual. The shop was kept within the walls of Cliveden by Dame Bunter, the wife of the school porter. King was the greediest and most impetuous boy in Cliveden. He looked up eagerly as the American strolled into the tuckshop and knocked on the counter for Dame Bunter.

"Hallo, Poindexter!" he said affably. "Nice tarts, ain't they?"

"Have some?" asked Poindexter hospitably.

"You going to treat?"

"Yes, if you like. Take as many as you want."

King needed no second invitation. He wired into the tarts with a will that showed what an aching void he had to fill. Poindexter watched him curiously. The youth from Chicago had plenty of pocket-money, and he laid a half-sovereign on the counter for Dame Bunter to change.

"Like 'em?" he asked.

"Rather!" said King, with his mouth full.

"Have some more? By the way, King, how are you going to vote on Saturday?"

"Haven't decided," said King, starting on a fresh pile of tarts.

"Try these cheese-cakes. Those puffs are nice, too. By the way, King—Don't spare the cheese-cakes—you know what ripping cakes you get at the village tuck-shop?"

"Yes, rather!" King was on the cheese-cakes now.

"Would you like to come down there after the election and have some? I'm thinking of taking

a few fellows down for a feed, and I should like you to come."

"Thanks awfully! I'll come with pleasure," said King cordially.

"That is to say, if we win the election," said Poindexter casually. "Otherwise I sha'n't feel cheerful enough for a feed."

"Oh!" said King.

"Try some of those cream puffs. You'll like them. I say, King, I wish you'd give me your promise to vote for Dick Neville on Saturday."

"I'm thinking about it."

"Have some ginger-pop! It will be a ripping feed after the election, if we win; and I know you would enjoy it. As a matter of fact, I think the election depends upon your vote now, as I'm sure of Medway."

"Are you sure of him?"

"Well, nearly. Anyway, your vote will make us safe. What do you say?"

"You'll have the feed if you win, you say?"

"Yes, if Neville gets in as captain."

"I like Neville," said King. "I was thinking of voting for him all along. Can I have some of those jam tarts?"

"As many as you like, old chap. I'm paying, Mrs. Bunter. You promise then, King?"

"Ye-e-es."

"I can count on your vote for Neville—honour bright?"

"Honour bright."

"Thanks; I'll put it down." Poindexter wrote King's name down in his pocket-book.

"Keep it up, kid; it's all down to my account. Take what you like."

It was a chance King was not slow to avail himself of. He was feeding in the most perfect state of enjoyment as Poindexter walked out of the tuckshop with a satisfied smile upon his face.

"Phew!" muttered Poindexter, "I don't know whether that amounts to bribery and corruption, but that chap will vote on his tummy, anyway, and there's no other way of getting at him. He's a pig, but his vote will count with the rest. If those two chaps are as successful with Medway, I guess we're all hunky. I'll go and see! No, on second thoughts I won't; the concertina may still be going."

And the youth from Chicago strolled away towards the football field.

The 5th Chapter.  
The Hypocrites!

**S**QUEAK!—whcezo!—squeak!—crash!—squeak!

Dick Neville stopped short with a groan.

"He's at it!"

Weird and wonderful sounds were proceeding from No. 8 study as the two members of the Combine drew near to it in their search for Medway the musician.

"It's the fiendish concertina," said Dick.

"He's at it. I wonder the other chaps stand it. But we're in for it now. Come on!"

"Sure, and the thing ought to be smashed!"

"So ought the player; but we've got to stick it out," said Dick gloomily.

Mustering up all their courage, the chums of the Fourth entered the study. Medway, a fat youth with flabby cheeks, was sitting on a corner of the table working away at a cheap German concertina.

"I say, Medway—" began Dick.

The musician made him a sign to be silent. His eyes had a far-away look, and he was grinding away for all he was worth.

"I say!" said Dick. "Excuse me, it's important—"

"Don't interrupt me!" said Medway. "I'm practising on my concertina, you know; and those beasts I share the study with will be in soon, and then I shall have to chuck it."

"Don't they like it?" asked Dick innocently.

"They're jealous," explained Medway.

"Ah, that accounts for it. I'm sure I never heard the 'Washington Post' played like that before," said Dick.

"It isn't the 'Washington Post'; it's the 'Fest-March' from 'Tannhauser'!" snapped Medway.

Dick blushed.

3

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"Sorry, I—I didn't recognise it for the moment. Now I come to think of it, of course it is the—the—as you say. I want to ask you a favour, old man." Medway looked at him suspiciously.

"What is it, Neville?"

"Will you come into our study and play us something?" asked Dick. "I've often felt inclined to ask you—to burn that beastly concertina!" he added, under his breath.

Medway, who did not hear the last part of the sentence, looked up with a pleased expression.

"You want me to come and play to you?"

"Yes, if you'll be so kind," said Dick earnestly.

"We can stand it—I mean we should like it awfully."

"Sure and we've come specially to ask you," said Micky, truthfully enough.

"You'll come, Medway, won't you?"

"Certainly," said Medway, slipping off the table. "I should have to chuck it here in a few minutes. I'm glad to find there's at least two fellows in the Fourth who know how to appreciate good music. I never thought you'd like it, or I'd have offered."

"That's very kind of you, Medway. It's generous."

"Oh, I like to find appreciative listeners," said Medway graciously. "Come along."

"It's a great gift," said Dick, as they walked along to No. 4. "How do you manage it, Medway? There are very few people play the concertina like you do."

"It's born in you," explained Medway. "Some fellows can play and some can't. That's it. A true musician is born, not made. Practice does a lot, though. I shouldn't be what I am now without a lot of practice."

"I suppose not," said Dick. "Here we are. I wish you had understood before how much we appreciated music, Medway. What lovely times we might have had—that is, if you were willing to take the trouble to play for us."

"Oh, I'll always do that. I'll come in for a couple of hours every evening if you like, and give you a selection," said Medway generously.

Dick smiled a sickly smile.

"That's—that's kind of you," he gasped.

"Of course, we couldn't think of putting you to a lot of trouble. We—"

"No trouble at all. Now, what would you like. I can do the Lohengrin prelude, you know—that's a ripping piece."

"Let's have that," said Dick, who had often heard it played by bands, and thought it might be endurable even on Medway's concertina.

"Here you are, then."

Medway started. Weird were the sounds that proceeded from the German concertina. Dick and Micky listened with exemplary patience, but they failed to notice anything bearing the faintest resemblance to that great composition of Wagner's.

"I say, it takes you a long time to tune up," Micky remarked.

Medway gave him a withering glance.

"I'm not tuning up," he said; "I'm playing."

(Continued on the next page.)

Why Not Become a Fretworker?

EXCELLENT HINTS AND ADVICE.

By VIVIAN STEWART.

**W**HEN drilling, there are two points to pay special attention to, firstly, splitting the wood, and secondly, damaging the under surface of same. To prevent these dangers, it is advisable to fix or lay the fretwood upon some waste pieces, as, in the event of doing so, the drill passes smoothly through the first piece into the second.

I will now mention two points worth remembering in connection with drilling. (a) Keep the drill perfectly vertical, and work with a free, but steady motion. (b) All drilling should be done before cutting is commenced, and do not drill a hole nearly an inch away from a curve, when a quarter of an inch is just as convenient. It only necessitates more unnecessary sawing, and if the worker has a design with some two hundred holes to cut out, he might easily save himself an hour, or even more, through this means of economy. But, still, on the other hand, do not bore too close to the edge of the pattern, so as to injure it, which would be the worst in the long run.

**Points on Drilling.**

Always drill a hole at the most convenient starting-point, of which a sharp angle is the most suitable, and should always be looked for. Never commence sawing in the middle of a curve or straight line of any sort.

Next I will consider the files; these can now be procured in at least six different shapes—viz. round, square, triangular, flat, egg-shaped, and semi-circular, or half-round; but the beginner need not purchase all these at the start. He will find what is known as the half-round file the best to get to commence with, as he will be able with it to manage both curves and straight lines.

Then he should buy the rest as time goes on, and will soon see what shapes he most requires. They are generally sold without handles, as fretworkers find it much easier to keep them under control without.

A great many workers keep two sets of files; one set of about four inches long for very fragile work, and another of larger size for ordinary purposes.

A cutting-table is said by many a fretcutter not to be absolutely necessary, and it is, to

some extent, true, for some can turn out excellent frets without the aid of this accessory. But if one is used, remember when fixing it to see that it is perfectly rigid, which is a matter of great importance. For should it incline on either side, the worker will find all his curves bevelled, and corners rounded.

A sand-papering block, I consider, is of indescribable importance, for in the process of sand-papering with it, the edges do not get at all rounded; but without it the fingers are bound to sink into the holes and render the upper edges bevelled, and everybody knows that a sharp edge is the chief characteristic feature of a fretted ornament.

It seems absurd to mention that sand-papering should always be executed with the grain; but the novice very often forgets the fact, and starts off in the opposite direction, making depressions which require a great deal of time and trouble to remove.

And now to discuss the choosing of a suitable design.

A pattern most appropriate for a beginner would be one which is not only easy to cut, but also simple to construct. I would recommend a floral design, as any irregularities in cutting would not be so noticeable as in a Chippendale style. The last mentioned pattern should be the last style that a novice should venture to tackle, as a severe fret, such as a Chippendale design, requires the greatest of care and accuracy in cutting.

**What Matters to Make.**

I do not propose to persuade the worker what sort of patterns he ought to make, for, as with most things, so with fretwork, tastes always differ.

It all depends on whether he is going to make the article to suit his own taste, or for the object of sale. Things which are useful, and at the same time novel or ornamental, would naturally find many likely purchasers.

To those who are pursuing their hobby with an idea of profit, I would say: "Finish your work in workmanlike manner, and do away with everything which might make it look at all amateurish. And remember that the buyer must be considered as well as the anxious seller, so do not ask too great a fancy

price for your work. And bear in mind that anything which is carelessly cut and clumsily and badly fitted together should never be put up for sale, for it would only gain you a bad reputation as a fretworker.

Few, if any, of these preliminary remarks on cutting can be of any use to the experienced worker, they are only intended for the novice, who has lately made up his mind to do some earnest work.

It seems unnecessary to explain the correct method of holding the hand-frame. But, still, one often hears of many workers who produce excellent work using this instrument handle uppermost, with the saw-blade reversed. And again, fixing the saw with the teeth facing inwards, and working towards oneself; or, instead of the teeth of the saw-blade pointing downwards, it is fixed just the opposite. This is a very bad way to begin, for all the sand-papering will afterwards be needed on the upper surface, because this side is bound to suffer through the effects of sawing, for, as in the ordinary method, it will be seen that the opposite side is generally the victim. Whichever way the beginner holds his frame at the outset, and practises that method, he is sure to find it the easiest, and afterwards will find it impossible to adopt the customary method.

**How to Hold the Frame.**

But the beginner should commence at the start to hold his frame in the proper fashion, which is, with the handle under the work, teeth of the saw-blade facing out and downwards; and work away from oneself, holding the instrument exactly upright, and guiding the pattern with the left hand.

A novice should in no case begin with a fine saw, as they are more difficult to control than those of a thicker grade. The saw, too, should not be fixed too loosely, for this again will render work harder. But, on the contrary, it should not be too tight.

After a saw has slipped from the clamps, and become in any way twisted or bent, it is advisable to throw it away at once, for no proper work can be accomplished if the blade is in such a condition.

When a fretcutter is about to commence his work, he will ask himself the following simple, but natural question:

"Is the inside to be cut out before the outer edge is tackled?"

This entirely relies on the kind and style of the pattern he is going to manipulate. But, still, it may be said, that if the outside edge has a number of sharp projecting angles sticking out at all corners, it is better to commence operations on the interior portions, as in the event of the outer edge being tackled first,

when the interior parts are being attended to, the projections are apt to come in contact with the coat or sleeves, and get snapped off. However, if the outside is plain, it is advisable to start there first, as it rids the work of unnecessary weight, and renders the work easier to guide.

**How to Master Curves.**

It is impossible to explain in this short chapter the numerous ways of mastering the various curves and angles; but only experience will teach the operator all the points which are to be learnt by the fretworker.

It is true that plenty of patience is required, especially when the worker sees that so many of his saws break—apparently without any rational reason; but he must take things as they come, thinking only of the beautiful work which, through patience, he will soon have in his possession.

After having completed the cutting of an article, great attention must be paid to the filing. This operation should not be looked upon as a means of putting right all imperfect and carelessly cut lines, but merely as a way of removing all threads and fibres caused by the saw-blade as it tears through the wood. The underside will, of course, have to receive the most care.

With some woods the task is not so necessary as in others, but open-grain woods naturally necessitate a great deal of filing, as the fibres are not of sufficient strength to resist the force of the saw-blade, and so they get torn and jagged as the process of sawing continues; while close grain woods offer more resistance to the saw-blade.

**When Filing is Needed.**

The extent to which filing is needed, greatly depends on the grade of saw used, the way in which the cutting has been carried out—whether smoothly, or in jerks and plunges—and also on the wood chosen, as has been previously said.

A boy who is desirous of turning out good work, should not plunge through his cutting with an idea that all mistakes can afterwards be put correct with a file. In some frets, such as a Chippendale design, an incorrect line would rob the whole pattern of its chief characteristic features.

I might here mention two simple, but still important, points in reference to filing. Firstly, always keep the file quite vertical, and use proper judgment as to where it is most required. And secondly, always clean your files before using them on white wood of any sort.

(To be concluded in a splendid article next Wednesday.)



## The Fourth Form Football Club.

(Continued from the previous page.)

"Oh, I beg your pardon!"

"Well, you are an ass, Micky," said Dick reprovingly, as Medway started again. "I should think you knew more about music than that. Anybody with half an ear could tell that Medway was playing the—the Lohengrin prelude now."

Medway glared.

"I'm not," he snapped. "I've finished that. This is Mendelssohn's 'Spring Song.'"

"Oh!"

Micky broke into a chuckle. Dick glared at him. Medway was eyeing them both doubtfully. It is probable that he began to see through them at that moment. However, he did not often find willing victims, so he went on playing.

He gave them a wide selection—of music he had learned and music he had not learned. Both the juniors were musical, but that concertina was too terrible for words, and Medway's playing was more terrible than the concertina.

Fellows came and looked in curiously at the study door, and fled again with their fingers to their ears. Neighbours in near studies rapped on the walls and shouted out expressions far from polite.

But Medway went grinding on, remorseless as the car of Juggernaut.

The school clock chimed out—the entertainment had lasted an hour. It seemed like a year to the unhappy canvassers for votes.

"I say, you're getting tired, Meddy," said Dick, with the perspiration standing in beads on his brow. "We—we mustn't be selfish—we won't tire you out."

"Oh, I'm all right!" said Medway.

"But you ought to have a rest."

"I don't want a rest, thanks. I'll give you a selection from Tchaikowsky now."

"Oh, don't—I mean, I'm sure you're fagged!"

"Do you want me to play, or don't you?"

"Oh, yes, of course; but—but—"

"Oh, I say, sure and I forgot that appointment with Jeffreys!" gasped Micky, as the concertina started again. "I must catch him!"

And Micky incontinently bolted out of the study.

Medway went on. Whether he supposed that he was playing a tune or not Dick Neville could not quite make out. Dick could discover nothing resembling one. It was a fearful, deafening din from a squeaky, toneless, instrument of torture; and as Medway ground on, Dick began to feel that he would go light-headed if it didn't stop.

"Now, I'll give you some more Wagner," said Medway.

Dick put up his hands involuntarily.

"Oh, don't, don't!" he moaned.

"Eh! What?"

"I mean—I'm sure you're tired, and—and I want to speak to Poindexter. I must be off now. I really must!"

Medway rose, and put his concertina under his arm, and bestowed a withering look upon the candidate for the captaincy of the Fourth Form.

"I'm going," he said. "You rotten humbug. You've got about as much ear for music as an owl. You don't know music from mathematics. Pankhurst is a fool about it, but not such a fool as you are, Dick Neville. By the way, I'm going to vote for Pankhurst. Good-bye!"

The musician marched off, and Dick sank gasping into a chair. A few minutes later Micky Flynn and Poindexter looked into the study.

"Well, how did it work?" asked Poindexter.

Dick groaned.

"It nearly worked me into my grave," he said; "and—and he's going to vote for Pankhurst."

"Waal, you have made a muck of it, I guess," said Poindexter.

"I wouldn't stand it again for forty captaincies," gasped Dick.

"Ha, ha! Never mind; I've got King's promise, so we shall be nineteen to seventeen on Saturday, even if Medway votes with the enemy. We're safe!"

## The 6th Chapter.

### Startling News—The Combine Rises to the Occasion.

"I CAN'T understand it," said Dick Neville, the following evening.

His American chum looked at him.

"Can't understand what?" asked Poindexter.

"Pankhurst and Price are going about looking as if they were certain of victory to-morrow," said Dick, with a puzzled brow. "They seem to feel absolutely confident, and yet it's known to all the Form that I have nineteen backers, and Pankhurst has only seventeen."

"I've noticed that myself, and can't quite catch on to it," Poindexter said, with a nod. "It looks as if they had a secret card up their sleeve. Yet I don't see how that can possibly be the case, for we've canvassed the whole of the Form, and we know perfectly well how the voting is going to-morrow afternoon. It seems to be a foregone conclusion that you will be captain of the club, yet Pankhurst—"

"Yet Pankhurst is swaggering about as if he were already captain."

"Exactly. I can't catch on."

The door of No. 4 study opened suddenly, and Micky Flynn came bolting in. He came in with such a rush that he dashed right into the table and sent it flying, and reeling back from the shock, fell upon Poindexter's lap.

"Arrah!" he gasped. "The bastes!"

Dick ran to the door, thinking for the moment that Pankhurst and Price were on the warpath;

but the passage was empty. He closed the door and turned towards Micky.

"What's the matter, you wild Irishman?" he exclaimed. "What do you mean by bolting into the room like that?"

Micky gasped for breath.

"Sure and it's a discovery I've made. I know why Panky has been swaggering about. We've been taken in. We're done, done, done!"

Poindexter grasped him by the shoulder and shook him.

"Explain, you pesky ass!" he exclaimed.

"How are we done?"

"I've just found out. Look here. You know there were five members of the Fourth Form who didn't belong to the football club?"

"Yes—Hill, Simpson, Hobbs, Gatty, and Greene," said Dick, running over the names.

"That's the lot. Well, they've joined."

"What?"

"They've been in to Mr. Raikes, our respected Form-master, and paid in their subscriptions, and to-night they're full-blown members of the football club—and they vote to-morrow."

Poindexter jumped up.

"We shall have to see those merchants at once!" he exclaimed. "This is a bit sudden, but there's still time for electioneering."

"Too late!"

"What do you mean?"

"As soon as I found out what the spalpeens had done, I smelled a rat. I said to meself that it was some hanky-Panky—and so it was, begorra. The five rotters have all promised to vote for Panky."

"What!" howled Dick and Poindexter together.

"It's a beastly fact," said Micky. "I have it from their own mouths, and between you and me, I believe Panky has paid their subscriptions, though they didn't let on. They've joined mighty suddenly, and it's suspicious that they've all promised Panky their support."



Weird and wonderful sounds were proceeding from No. 8 Study as Dick and Micky drew near to it. Mustering up all their courage, the chums entered the study. Medway was sitting upon the corner of the table working away at a cheap German concertina.

"Waal, my Sunday tile!" ejaculated Poindexter. "I guess that's real smart."

"Sure and it's a mean trick!"

"It's a jolly smart one, and there's no denying that we might have worked it if we had thought of it," said Dick candidly. "No good calling Panky names; he's done us."

"Has he?" exclaimed Poindexter, with a gleam in his eyes. "Perhaps not."

"I'm afraid he has. He has twenty-two votes now to our nineteen. We're diddled and done!"

Poindexter's square, determined chin seemed to grow squarer.

"We're not done," he said, with emphasis.

"The Combine is not going to be done in by a rotten firm like Pankhurst and Price. Not much. We're going to settle with those five members. Of course, it wouldn't be cricket to keep an ordinary voter away from the poll. But those five chaps who have been dragged in at the last moment to swamp us—well, I guess all's fair in war, gents. We're going to deal with that quintette, I guess."

Dick's eyes flashed as he caught the American's meaning.

"Can it be fixed?"

"It's going to be fixed, I guess," said the American coolly. "The Combine has got to come out on top, and that's the only way."

"Sure, and it's an illigant plan intirely!" exclaimed Micky, whose English always became more Irish when he was excited. "We'll give the bastes the kybosh somehow, darlings!"

Poindexter knitted his brows thoughtfully. He did some hard thinking, and the chums, who had learned to rely upon the American's acute intelligence, watched him in silence. If there was a way, Lincoln G. Poindexter was pretty certain to find it.

"I've got it!" exclaimed Poindexter suddenly.

"The election is at three, in the Fourth Form room. It won't take very long, and when it's once over, the result is safe; nobody can kick afterwards. Besides, Pankhurst and Price are not the fellows to whine if they're licked at their own game. If we can keep those five away for half an hour we're safe. You know the box-room on the top floor, which is hardly ever used now. Chaps might be locked up there and nobody would hear them if they yelled their loudest, for hours, on a Saturday afternoon when the studies are empty. That's the wheeze."

"But, begorra, how—"

"We've got to manage it. We'll take some of our fellows into the game, some we can rely on, and before the election comes off those five outsiders will get bunked into the box-room. I've no doubt we shall be able to get some of them there with a yarn, but if not, we'll carry them off by force. We can do it, for Panky certainly won't be on the look-out for anything of that kind."

"Ha, ha, ha!"

"It's the last card," said Poindexter, "but I calculate it will prove a trump. You're going to be Captain of the Fourth Form Football Club, Dick, I guess."

## The 7th Chapter.

### The Election, and How it Went.

"SILENCE!"

The hands of the clock in the Fourth Form class-room were pointing to nearly three o'clock. The room was crowded with juniors, talking excitedly. There was a ceaseless buzz in the room, and Pankhurst called for order in vain.

"Gentlemen of the Fourth Form, it is time for the election!" exclaimed Pankhurst.

"Hear, hear!"

"We are all met together—"

"Three o'clock!" exclaimed Dick. "The election begins now, whether we're all here or not!"

"But I say—" began Pankhurst.

"Why, you were saying so yourself just now!" exclaimed Jeffreys. "Let us get going!"

"Start! start!" bawled the juniors.

"The asses have forgotten all about it, I suppose," Pankhurst muttered to Price, "or else they didn't notice the time. We'll have the voting for Neville first, and hang it out as much as we can, and I expect they'll turn up."

Price nodded assent. Both were feeling uneasy, but it was impossible to go and look for the absentees now.

Poindexter stood up to propose his esteemed friend, Richard Neville, for Captain of the Fourth Form Football Club, and Micky Flynn seconded. There was a cheer from their partisans.

Then Price proposed Pankhurst, and Medway seconded.

"Hands up for Pankhurst!" sang out a voice.

"No, no, Neville first!" exclaimed Pankhurst hastily.

Dick grinned. He knew that his rival wanted to gain time, to give the rest of his supporters time to turn up. Dick did not mind.

"I guess we'll take the poll first, if you like," said Poindexter. "Hands up for Neville!"

"Hands up for the Tinned Beef candidate!" yelled a Pankhurst backer.

There was a loud laugh, but plenty of hands went up for Dick. Two Fifth Form boys, who had kindly consented to act as tellers, counted the hands, and compared notes to make sure.

"Nineteen!" was the announcement.

A ringing cheer for Dick Neville followed. Then there was a call for hands up for Pankhurst. Pankhurst's face was a study.

There was still no sign of the five members. Where could they possibly be? Price, at a look from Pankhurst, rose and called for a pause.

"Some of the members of the club are delayed in coming," said Price. "Will the opposite side consent to waiting a few minutes for them?"

"Certainly," said Dick. "We'll give you five minutes."

"Thanks," said Pankhurst. "I can't think where they are. Gatty may have gone out with his camera, but the others— Price, old chap, run and look in their studies!"

Price left the room. Every eye watched the clock. The Combine maintained a confident air, and smiled bland smiles at Pankhurst. The latter was puzzled and annoyed. He felt a dim suspicion that Dick knew something of this most mysterious circumstance, but he could not make out exactly what.

Price was back on the last second of the five minutes. He came alone.

"Haven't you seen them?"

"No. They're not in the studies, and I can't see them in the quad or the gym."

"I can't make it out. Unless Neville is willing to postpone the election—"

"Rats!" said the Combine, with one voice.

"Well, go ahead!" said Pankhurst resignedly.

"Hands up for Pankhurst!" called out the tellers.

There was little need for counting, but it was done as a matter of form. The result was, of course, known before it was announced.

"Pankhurst, seventeen!"

Pankhurst's face was a study. Dick broke into a chuckle, and the other two members of the victorious Combine followed suit. So did some of their followers.

"Neville, nineteen; Pankhurst, seventeen! Dick Neville is elected Captain of the Fourth Form Football Club!"

"Hurrah!"

The room rang with the cheer.

"Hurrah for Neville! Bravo! Hurrah!"

Dick stood up to acknowledge.

"Gentlemen of the Fourth Form, I am proud of the honour you have done me. (Hear, hear!) I shall always do my level best to deserve it, and to prove a captain worthy of your trust and confidence. (Hear, hear!) I hope my esteemed friend, Pankhurst, bears no malice, as I do not (hear, hear)—and I hope he will shake hands on it to show there's no ill-will on either side." (Tremendous cheering.)

Pankhurst came forward. He was not the fellow to bear malice, even when his "best-laid schemes had gone astray." He took Dick's hand cordially enough.

"I congratulate you, Neville!" he exclaimed. "May your shadow never grow whiskers! Can I say more?" And there was a cheer for Pankhurst.

The meeting broke up. The Combine went down the passage arm-in-arm, the new captain of the Fourth in the middle. Pankhurst hurried after them and tapped Dick on the shoulder.

"You've done us," he exclaimed, "and now tell us where those chaps are! I expect you know!"

Dick solemnly handed him a key. Pankhurst stared at it.

"If you look in the disused box-room on the top floor," said Dick, without turning a hair, "you may find some mislaid voters. They will probably tell you that they were carried there and locked in. I shouldn't wonder! Anyway, look!"

Pankhurst's feelings were too deep for words. He grinned a sickly grin and departed. The Combine cake-walked down the passage, cackling like geese.

"Ha, ha, ha! We've done 'em—done 'em brown!"

"Sure, and they're baten to the wide!"

"I guess that the Combine is a bit above their weight," opined Lincoln G. Poindexter. And Dick and Micky agreed with him.

THE END.

(Another story of the Cliveden boys appears next Wednesday, entitled

"THE CLIVEDEN HOBBY CLUB."

Two more strokes followed.