

# That Popular "Popular"

By Eric Payne

In some ways, the Popular was the most remarkable periodical which ever appeared, mainly because, with few exceptions, the stories which it contained were re-prints of yarns which had previously appeared in other publications.

For well over twenty years it was "popular" with the young and the not-so-young, and, even though its circulation may never have been gigantic, it must have been a profitable enterprise for the Amalgamated Press.

## THE PENNY POPULAR

It was on Friday, October 11th in the year 1912, that the "Penny Popular" first graced the bookstalls. It contained three stories, and one cannot but feel, at first sight, that they made curious bed-fellows. One can safely assume that the three stories were of the three most popular characters which the A.P. handled at that time, but these three characters must have appealed to three entirely different classes of readers.

Tom Merry of St. Jim's, Sexton Blake of Baker Street, and Pete, of Jack, Sam, and Pete fame. Tom Merry obviously appealed to the schoolboy; Sexton Blake would appeal more to youths in their later teens; I cannot determine at all to what class of reader Jack, Sam, and Pete appealed. I cannot think, however, that the Tom Merry fans found much to their liking in Sexton Blake, or that the detective enthusiasts cared much for the school stories.

Be that as it may, the policy was obviously successful, for the Penny Popular carried on in this style for several years.

For any reader who found that his taste included all three tales, - and I doubt if there were many, - the Penny Popular offered grand value for money. Printed throughout on green paper, it contained 32 pages, and as it carried very few illustrations or advertisements and was printed in neat, small, but easily readable type, it presented a wealth of reading matter.

In Number One was "Tom Merry - New Boy". Here we have clear proof that the "Gem" was a more popular paper than the "Magnet" in 1912. It is not surprising. In the Gem in 1912 Mr. Hamilton was writing some of the finest Tom Merry stories of his career, and the Magnet was ploughing along in the wake of the Gem.

In "Tom Merry - New Boy", Tom's form-master at Clavering was Mr. Quelch; the Captain of Clavering was Wingate; and Wingate's pal was the prefect, North. Mr. Hamilton often duplicated the names of his characters in those days, but one cannot but feel that they would have been suitable altered in "Tom Merry - New Boy" if the Greyfriars following had been particularly large.

Sometimes they used old illustrations, - often very dated, - in the Penny Popular, but Macdonald drew a new set of illustrations for the

Tom Merry stories. Though, in 1912, that fine artist had not been illustrating the Gem for many years, his work had become irrevocably associated with Tom Merry.

The first Penny Populer cover bore three pictures, - one from each story, - and this policy was followed for a considerable time. Editors were particularly conservative with their papers in those days, and it may have been the unchanging style of the papers which endeared them so to old readers.

"Tom Merry - New Boy" was a re-print of "Tom Merry's Schooldays" in No.3 of the Gem. The Jack, Sam, and Pete story, by S. Clarke Hook, was "Volcano Island", probably reprinted from the "Mervel". The Sexton Blake yarn was "The Case of the Treasure Hunters", and one assumes that this came from the "Union Jack". Perhaps Mr. Bond, that authority on Blake, can verify or refute this.

#### THE FIRST X.M.S NUMBER

No.11 was something of a Christmas Number, though the only tale introducing the season was the Sexton Blake item, called "The Order of Release".

#### HENRY WHARTON ARRIVES

Unheralded and unannounced, a new serial started on page 30 of Number 18. This was "Henry Wharton's Schooldays". It was a serialised version of the first story in the Magnet. This ended in No.23, and Henry Wharton departed.

#### POPLETS

With No.31, a competition called "Poplets" started. Though the prizes were very small by present standards, this competition was apparently popular, for it ran, off and on, for a long time in the paper.

#### A CURIOUS COVER

No.34 carried its three-picture cover on the last page. On the front was a re-production of Answers 25th birthday Number, published on June 7th 1913.

#### WHERE IS HE NOW?

In No.36 was published the result of the 1st Poplets Competition. The winner of the first prize of 20/- was J.E.Jones, of 37 Stenwell Road, Penarth, near Cardiff. I wonder if he is still living, and what he thought of the Penny Populer.

#### NUMBER FIFTY

With No.50 the style and make-up of the Penny Populer had not changed in the smallest detail. There were still 32 green pages, with the three-picture cover. In this issue the Sexton Blake story "Hunter and Hunted Too" was placed first in the paper. The Tom Merry tale "The Bogus Eleven", came second, and third was "A Leap for Life", the Jack, Sam, and Pete tale.

#### X.M.S 1913

This year, Christmas was not observed at all in this unique paper. Tom Merry, in fact, was away at sea, with St.Jim's sloop on the

S.S.Condor. Actually, this was a summer series, but they never bothered about seasons in those early Penny Populars.

#### COVER CHANGE

With No.71 came the first slight change in the Pop. The three-picture cover was dropped from now on. No.71 had the full-page illustration by Macdonald, showing Gussy working a living apparatus, in his efforts to salvage the wrecked "Condor".

#### BETWEEN OURSELVES

In No.72, for the first time, the Editor had a chat column, under the heading "Between Ourselves". He drew, therein, attention to the cover innovation, and mentioned that Harry Lane had drawn that week's full-page illustration to the Sexton Blake story. From this time on, for some considerable time, Macdonald drew all the covers, alternating Tom Merry with Sexton Blake. No.99, however, had the reproduction of an old Gem illustration, drawn, I believe, by J.A.Cummings.

#### THE WAR

No.101, published September 11th 1914, had on the cover a picture of Sexton Blake face to face with the Kaiser. The story was "The Imperial Spy", which seemed up-to-the-minute, but was probably an old Blake story adapted.

And now the number of pages was reduced to 28, and the covers were frequently war pictures, drawn by our old friend Chapmen. But, with No.114, the pages were increased to 32.

#### THREE YEARS OLD

No.156, October 1st 1915, bore the heading "Three years old to-day, - and still the best complete story book". It still had 32 pages, and the three complete stories. But the Editor, in "Between Ourselves", stated that his paper's circulation sometimes gave cause for "grave alarm". He commented "It is high time that our circulation leaped ahead." Which looked ominous for the existing policy.

With No.207, the number of pages dropped to 24. But Sexton Blake, Tom Merry, and Pete carried on until No.221.

#### CHANGE OF POLICY

With No.222, Greyfriars came into the picture. To celebrate the change, a Presentation Plate "The Chums of Greyfriars" was given away free. And it was Sexton Blake who fell by the way. No.222 contained "The Making of Harry Whorton", the first tale in the Magnet, and the one which had been serialised so casually in the Pop, three years before. In this issue was "With Pick and Lamp", a Pete story, and the Tom Merry tale was "Tom Merry's Cinema". And each story now carried the old and original illustrations.

With No.227, the number of pages was reduced to 20.

#### JIMMY JOINS UP

With No.236 it was announced that "On Friday next Jimmy Silver & Co of Rockwood will make their appearance in the Penny Popular". So, with No.236, Jack, Sam, & Pete said good-bye for ever to the Popular. Their final tale was entitled "Pete's Motor Bike".

No.237 bore the announcement on the cover "The All-School Story Paper!" For some unknown reason the Rockwood series did not begin with the first Jimmy Silver story, but with a rather feeble yarn called "The Rockwood Waxworks".

#### A STRANGE COVER

And so the Populer continued with St.Jim's, Greyfriars, and Rockwood. For several months the covers alternated with re-prints of old Gem and Magnet illustrations.

But the cover of No.267 was extremely unusual. It purported to illustrate the Rockwood story "The Terrible Thomas", and represented a bedraggled Smythe raising his topper to Dr. Chisholm. But that picture had appeared in "PLUCK" in 1906, illustrating an entirely different tale, long before Rockwood was thought of. Why it was used, eleven years later, to illustrate a tale in the Populer is a mystery.

#### CHRISTMAS 1917

No.269 was the first real Christmas Number of the Penny Populer, and the only Double Number in the history of the paper. The Pop was now printed on rather poor quality paper throughout, and the cover showed Billy Bunter gazing at a ghostly Christmas pudding. The issue consisted of 32 pages, cost 2d, and contained "Billy Bunter's Christmas Dream"; "Christmas at Cliveden", a story of Cliveden School, by Charles Hamilton; "The Ghost of St.Jim's", an old Gem Christmas story which shared with one other St.Jim's tale the distinction of being the story most often re-printed, and finally a Rockwood tale "Snowed Up". It was a tip-top Christmas Number.

#### THE END OF THE BEGINNING

With the following issue, No.271, the Pop was reduced to 16 pages, and the print was so small that eye-strain was inevitable.

In 1918 it was announced that, owing to the paper shortage, the Penny Populer would be incorporated with "The Boys' Friend", but that when conditions improved, it would appear again. So, on March 29th 1918, five and a half years after its initial appearance, the Pop disappeared until happier days.

#### NEW SERIES

Less than a year later,-- on Friday, January 24th 1919, the "Penny Populer" was back on the stalls. In appearance and lay-out it was exactly the same as when it had temporarily retired. The name was still "Penny Populer", though the price was now 1½d. No.1. New Series, had a cover picture showing Bunter with his postal-order,-- an old Magnet illustration by Arthur Clerke. The pages numbered 16, and the print was still far too small. The opening yarns were "Billy Bunter's Postal-Order"; "The Rivals of Rockwood"; and "D'Arcy's Delusion:"

With Number 1 was given a "Magnificent Art Plate of Billy Bunter", by Chapman. With No.2 came a free Art Plate of Gussy, by Macdonald.

#### THE SUBS TAKE OVER

One can assume that the resurrected Pop was not too successful, for in No.17, New Series, it was announced that from henceforth the paper would contain THREE ENTIRELY ORIGINAL Stories of the three

famous Schools. They did! And they proved to be completely feeble efforts from "sub" writers. A long and boring series of Greyfriars stories told of how the chums toured the counties playing cricket. With No.32 a character named Dennis Carr made his appearance at Greyfriars. He played the lead in these "Pop" Greyfriars stories for several months and he even became Captain of the Remove. By the time No.52 was reached, early in 1920, the "POP" had increased to 20 pages. Dennis Carr still led the chums of Greyfriars, but Tom Merry now left the paper, and he was replaced by a serial "Mick of the Movies". With two sub stories of Greyfriars and Rookwood respectively plus a serial, the "Pop" programme at this time would not seem to have been very attractive.

#### A CHANGE OF NAME

With No.84, New Series, the Penny dropped from the title, and the paper became "The Poplar". By this time, the early adventure Rookwood stories had returned, but the new Greyfriars tales still continued, with Dennis Carr in the lead. This No.84 contained a new serial "The Sword of the Temples" by Edmund Burton; the Greyfriars story was "Dennis Carr's Compact"; a second serial was "The Exploits of Ferrers Locke, Detective" by Maurice Everard; a third serial "Fighting for Fame", being the life story of film star Eddie Polo; the Rookwood re-print was entitled "Tommy Dodd's Mistake". Altogether, not a very attractive bill of fare.

#### RETURN OF THE EARLY GREYFRIARS YARNS

No.101 contained "Christmas at Bunter Court", the last of the new Greyfriars stories featuring Dennis Carr. The old Greyfriars yarns were back in 102, the opening story being "The Head's Secret", the story which told of the finding of the Head's daughter, Rosie Locke.

#### BILLY BUNTER'S WEEKLY

With No.107, "Billy Bunter's Weekly" made its initial appearance. This new supplement was to run, off and on, for some years in the Poplar. Though it really bore little resemblance to any genuine school magazine, Bunter's Weekly had a definite charm of its own, and it certainly made the Poplar programme more attractive. Poplar No.109 had a famous cover, taken from an early Magnet, showing Bob Cherry holding his red scarf over the railway signal to save a train from crashing into the car of Mr. Vernon Smith. By now, the Pop was assuming the form which was heralding the heyday of the paper. The mass of serials had been dropped and this issue contained "Saving the Head", an early Greyfriars yarn; "The Colonial Co in Trouble", an early Rookwood yarn; Billy Bunter's Weekly Supplement; a Ferrers Locke serial "A Merged Man"; and a gallery column of the main characters, this particular week's dealing with Jimmy Silver. The old Poplets competition returned, too.

#### CHRISTMAS 1921

The Christmas Number of that year found the Poplar continuing with this policy. This issue contained a Christmas story of the Rookwood chums "The Traitor Guest"; "Coker's Short Reign", a re-issue of Coker as Captain of the School; the Grand Christmas Number of "Billy Bunter's Weekly"; an instalment of "The Invisible Rider", a Ferrers Lord serial by Sidney Drew, and the 47th edition of the new Poplets competition.

## A BIG CHANGE

No.161, New Series, marked a new and prosperous phase in the life of the Populer. The paper was increased to 28 pages, and the price became 2d. For a number of weeks, free coloured art plates of Railway Engines were given away. Let us have a peep at the programme in this Populer No.161, in its new enlarged form. The Frank Richards' Schoolboys at Ceder Creek stories now started, re-printed from "The Boys' Friend". For some reason the first story was omitted, and the Populer started with what was really the second story of the series, "Westward Bound". The Greyfriars story was "Vernon-Smith Declares War", the opening of the famous old series in which the Bounder cruised all the Famous Five to be expelled, one after the other. Tom Merry was back, described as the most popular schoolboy in the world. The story was "The St.Jim's Auto-Suggesters", the first of a very poor series of St.Jim's tales by hack writers. Those new St.Jim's tales compered very unfavourably with the excellent re-prints of the other two schools. "Billy Bunter's Weekly" still occupied the centre pages. "Holding the Fort" was the Rookwood story of an early rebellion at the famous school. There was a painting competition, in which readers were invited to paint Morningson's fancy waistcoat. The attractive new programme was completed by a new Sidney Drew serial "Gen Vega's Island". So, one imagines, the Pop carried on, with ever-increasing circulation. In No.179 appeared the world-famous old story "Bob Cherry's Barring Out", and the Pop carried the well-known picture from the old Magnet cover.

## ANOTHER CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Number of 1922 had little, if any, Yuletide flavour. The programme was still re-prints of Greyfriars, Rookwood, and Ceder Creek, and a new hack-written St.Jim's story, plus Bunter's "Weekly". The serial was now "The Rival Sportsmen" by Victor Nelson. None of the stories had a Christmas setting.

With No.207, and for several weeks after, glossy photographs of "Famous Sportsmen" were given away.

## THE OLD-TIME SERIALS

For a long time, the Populer presented serials in old-time settings. The first of these, "Stand and Deliver" by David Goodwin, started with No.212. This was followed by "The Outlaw King" by Morton Pike, which commenced with No.223. After this came "The League of Seven", also by Morton Pike, starting in No.234. Then came "Morgen o' the Main" by J.R.Stenner, starting in 249.

## THE GHOST STORY AGAIN

From No.161, when the "Tupenny" Populer had started until No.255 there was no change at all in the policy of the paper. But with No.256 the hack stories of St.Jim's had ended and the re-prints began again. The first one was no other than that famous Christmas yarn "The Ghost of St.Jim's" which had been re-printed before in the Populer Christmas No. of 1917. This time it was actually divided into three separate stories for three consecutive weeks. The titles were "The White Monk of St.Jim's", "Mr. Selby's Mysterious Guest" and "The St.Jim's Ghost Hunters".

## CHRISTMAS 1923

Another Christmas Number found the Populer much more Christmessy. "The Night Rider" by Morton Pike was now the old-time serial.

The St. Jim's story was the one last named in the previous paragraph. Rookwood gave "The Phantom Abbot". Billy Bunter's Weekly was replete with snow, holly, and Christmas puddings. The Greyfriars tale was not seasons-able - "Down in the Depths", a Vernon-Smith yarn. The Cedar Creek tale, "Chunky, the Spoofer", was also out of season. Still, it was a first-rate Christmas issue, all told.

#### ANOTHER CHANGE

With No. 271, the covers were attractively printed in blue instead of black ink, and for a considerable time the Poplar was distinctive with its blue and white covers.

No. 272 had an attractive picture on the front, drawn by Macdonald, to illustrate the re-printing of the famous St. Jim's tale of "The Mysterious X". This story which had occupied two issues of the Gem about 1912, was extended to three stories for the Poplar.

#### AND SO ON

When the 300th number, new series, was reached, the magnificent programme was unchanged, and one can assume that the Pop was in its heyday. With No. 305, a Hobby Supplement was introduced, and this appeared alternately now with Billy Bunter's Weekly, though it is probable that most readers preferred the Weekly.

#### CHRISTMAS 1924

Once again the Rookwood title was "The Phantom Abbot", though it was a different abbot this time. Abbots were well sprinkled over the Rookwood years, I fancy. "Coker's Infatuation" told of Coker in love. The Hobby Supplement was in the centre of the paper. "A Christmas Adventure" was the re-print of a hack-written Telbot tale. The Beckwoods tale was "The Cedar Creek Treasure-hunt", and the old-time serial was now "Dick o' the Highway" by David Goodwin.

So 1924 passed on its way, with no change in the general programme of the paper, though the publishing day was now Tuesday instead of Friday.

In passing, the Rookwood story in No. 360 was once more entitled "The Phantom Abbot" for the third year in succession. Somebody seemed to be lacking in imagination.

#### CHRISTMAS AGAIN

In No. 361, the Christmas Number for 1925, good-bye was said to the Cedar Creek stories. As a Christmas Number, this issue wasn't! With No. 362 a series of Robin Hood tales commenced. They were probably re-prints, though where they came from I cannot say. In 366 a David Goodwin story commenced its run, "The Schoolboy Mill-owners".

#### RED, WHITE, and BLUE

With the advent of the red, white, and blue cover, - and very attractive it was, - in No. 391, yet another stepping-stone was reached in Poplar history. This issue was published on July 24th 1926, and the first of a set of cut-out figures of cricketers was presented. The stories were "A Call for Help", the re-print of the first of those very fetched Levison-Dirk Power yarns; then came "Peter Todd's Peril"; the serial, under the name of cricketer Petsy Henderson, was "The Test Match Kid";

F. St. Mers gave a fine nature tele: "Lovell's Business Deal" was well up to the usual Rookwood standard; the Robin Hood yarn was "Sir Brian's Cartel"; and the programme was completed with an article on "Bowling". A fine summer number.

#### ROUND THE YULE-LOG

This was the title of the Editor's Chat in the Christmas Number for 1926. This heading was reminiscent of the old Drednought. Can you guess the title of the Rookwood tele in this issue? After "The Phantom Abbot" for three years running, they now gave us "The Phantom Prior". What a burst of originality! G.E.Rochester's serial "The Freak of St.Frede's" was now going strong. "Herry Wherton's Triumph" took place at the home of Kerr of St.Jim's; F. St.Mers' nature tele was "The Great White Terror", the story of a polar bear; "The House of Peril" was Eastwood House, with Wildrake in the lead; the Robin Hood yarn was "Norman against Saxon". I wonder who wrote these old-time masterpieces.

#### SEXTON BLAKE'S RETURN

Now, after a lapse of 12 years, Sexton Blake returned to the Populer, replacing the Robin Hood series. The first story "The Helderstone Pearls" appeared in No.434, and as Tinker did not appear in the series, they were, presumably, very old yarns. At this time, the very long series of Rookwood in the Wild West was going strong.

#### CHRISTMAS 1927

As usual, with the Populer, the Christmas Number was not particularly seasonsable. The ghostly prior was once more in evidence in the Rookwood story, though the title this year was "Texas Lick's Ghost Hunt"; "Cardew, the Good Samaritan" had no Yule-tide flavour; Ferrers Locke and Jack Dreke, re-printed from the Boys' Herald, had replaced Sexton Blake, and were "Dogged by Danger"; Billy Bunter was king of the Cannibals on the Congo, and a serial by Morton Pike, "Two Swords for Cromwell", completed this rather unseasonable fare.

#### THE RIO KID

And now, in No.469, a brand new character joined the Populer, - one of the few original attractions in the Pop's 20 odd years. The Rio Kid! This series, which ran for a long time, was specially written for the Populer, by Charles Hamilton, under his new pen-name Ralph Hedway. Nothing better ever appeared in the Populer or in any other paper for that matter. The Rio Kid stories were grand. Completely convincing, geographically correct to the last detail, original in plot, and full of thrills, these Wild West tales had unforgettable charm. I hope, one day, to persuade the Editor of the C.D. to allow me to completely "cover" this superb character. For several years "The Rio Kid" rode the ranges in the good old Pop.

#### ST. FRANK'S

In No.489, the St.Frank's stories joined the Populer programme, replacing the Ferrers Locke stories.

#### CHRISTMAS 1928

The 1928 Christmas Number was moderately seasonsable. "Lovell's Christmas Adventure" was the Rookwood offering. "The Downward Path" featured Rushden of St.Jim's, but it had no Christmas setting.



"The Rio Kid's Christmas" found the Kid in the snows of the Pucceas, - a tip-top Christmas story. "Levison's Enemy" was the Greyfriars tale. "Saved by his Chum" was the St. Frank's adventure.

#### ST. FRANK'S DEPARTS

St. Frank's fell from the Popular stage in No. 542, and their place was taken by a series of tales of the Pacific, featuring the Four Adventurers, led by Dick Polruen. This series ran until No. 567.

#### CHRISTMAS 1929

The Christmas No. of 1929 was No. 568. It contained a one-week old-time tale entitled "Champion of the Arena"; "Lovell Gets that Christmas Feeling"; "The Greyfriars Cavalier"; the pick of the bunch was a delightful Rio Kid story "The Trail in the Snow"; and a St. Jim's tale "Catching a Terter". With this story, St. Jim's dropped from the Popular picture for the last time.

#### FERRERS LOCKE AGAIN

In the next issue, Ferrers Locke was back in extra-long detective stories. Though he had, in support, Greyfriars, Rookwood, and the inimitable Rio Kid, the Popular seemed to have lost something with the departure of Tom Merry.

#### THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Though there were still many months of life before the Popular in April 1930, one sensed somehow that all was no longer well with the old paper. There was a lack of consistency in the programmes presented, the lay-out lacked its old charm, and even the illustrations lacked quality. It is my opinion that about this time the Popular passed under new editorship.

In No. 585 a series of Calcroft tales began, - an old series written long before by Sidney Drew. For a time these stories ran intermittently with the Rookwood tales. Comic strips were introduced, and an unfunny page by Willie Wengle, the Schoolboy Wizard. Even the editor became facetious in a page headed "A Chinwag with your Editor".

#### EXIT THE KID

With the departure of the Rio Kid in No. 587, the glory departed from Israel with a vengeance. With No. 588 a series of scouting stories of the Popoleki Petrol commenced, and, though these were early stories by Charles Hamilton, they failed to ring the bell in this less popular Popular.

#### THE KID'S RETURN

In No. 600, the Rio Kid was back in a further new series, probably as a result of popular demand. In that issue a motor-racing series by Alfred Eiger commenced. Bunter was there in that famous Bunter Court series. And lo, and behold, the old Cedar Creek series was re-started. Rookwood was on the bill, too. The editor was trying to revive the old paper, but it was a losing battle. In No. 612 the Rio Kid said good-bye to the Popular for the last time. (Years later, that grand character appeared in a series in the Modern Boy, though the stories were not of the same high quality as those which had appeared in the Popular).

## CLOSING WEEKS

The Populer was dead, but for a few weeks it would not lie down. No.613 contained a hotch-potch of short stories, and only Rookwood remained of the bright programme of yester year.

The Greyfriars chums returned to support Rookwood with No.621, and a Greyfriars yarn called "Poor Old Mossco" ran as a serial for several consecutive weeks. Poor old Populer!

## THE END

It was notsurprise when, in No.628, dated February 7th 1931, it was announced that the Populer was to be re-named the Ranger. It was obvious to everybody that the Pop was closing down and the Ranger was to take its place. Of the old favourites, only Greyfriars and Rookwood were with it at the finish. In its old age, the Populer was completely unfeebled, and few could have cared when it disappeared from the stalls. I wonder how many of the old supporters saw it through to the bitter end.

The most amazing thing in the Populer history was its rapid deterioration. In a few short months it changed from a popular periodical to a third-rate misc-rem. It is sad to think that a paper which clearly had a wonderful history should have faded out. But we who remember the hey-day of the grand old Populer will always reserve for it one of the softest spots in our sentimental hearts.

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## THE CLAUDE DUVAL LIBRARY

Notes:- 48 issues only. (1st 4 Nos.)

Cherlton Lee probably wrote all the stories.

- 1, 4.10.1902. The Sword of Vengeance, or How Claude Duval and Prince Rupert became Friends.
- 2, " " " Strike for the King, or The Black Masked Cavalier.
- 3 " " " In the Treck of Death, or Claude Duval's Fight for the Royal Standard.
- 4 " " " The Fell of the Axe, or Claude Duval takes to the King's Highway.
- 5, Sentenced to Death, or The Mystery of the Arched-Roof Dungeon.
- 6, The Armed Men of Alsetis, or Under the Young King's Banner.
- 7, The House of Mystery or The Story of a Hidden Treasure that Came to Light.
- 8, At the Point of the Sword, or Face to Face with Colonel Blood.
- 9, The Doom of a Spy, or The Fugitive of Bestwick Grange.
- 10, A midnight Crime, or An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth.
- 11, In the Nick of Time, or In the Shadow of Death.
- 12, The Justice of Revenge, or Judge Jeffreys in a Trep.
- 13, Three Fighting Heroes, or Uneasy Lies the Head that Wears a Crown.
- 14 In the Midnight Hour, or The Victim of a Base Conspiracy.
- 15, A Ruthless Foe, or Claude Duval in the Toils of His Enemies.
- 16, Left to His Fate, or A fight Against Fearful Odds. 17, The Black Death, or A Story of the Plague. 18, Haunted Treasure, or How Claude Duval Braved Terrible Dangers. 19, Caught and Caged, or Claude Duval's Desperate Extremity. 20, Kidnapping a King, or Alsetis to the Rescue. 21, The Scarlet Shoe, or Claude Duval's Dive. 22, The Emerald Snake, or In Rochester's Grip. 23, The Weir of Death, or The Doom of the Wolf.

(Cont'd on p. 33.)