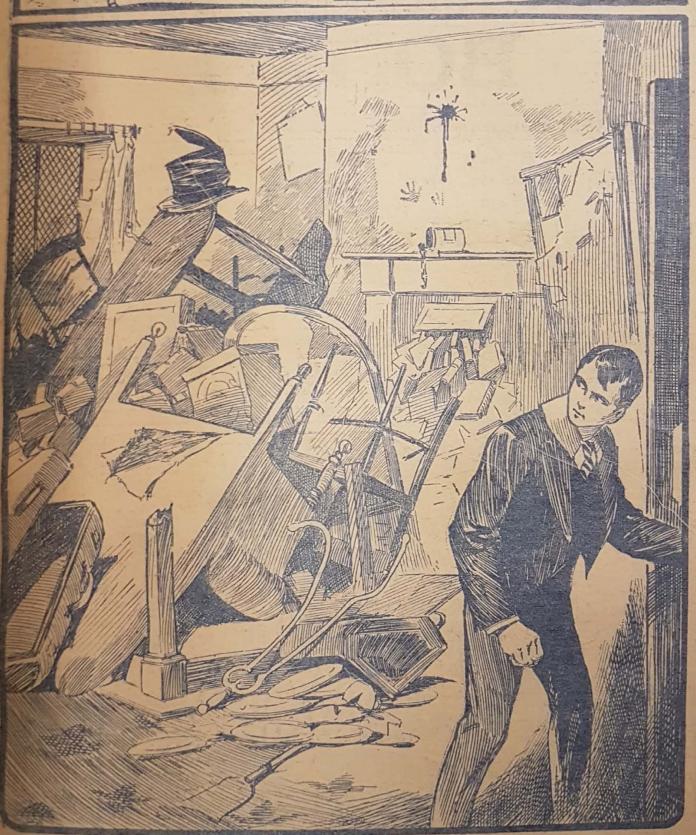
NEW! A Complete THE MAGNET ORDER No. 7.





The Wrecking of the "Slacker's" Study.

"By our agreement I was to pay my three essistants a regular salety from my can packet. The entire proceeds of each extend were to be given to the poor. I had stipulated that Carnett build were to be given to the poor. That were to be given to the poor. I had supulated that Carnett and Harderth should keep from me all knowledge of the owner of the house selected for entry. I had friends in English society, and I did not want to beam that I was about to rob my own mands. It might have unserved us.
Thus, you see, Miss Twyford, I had not the slightest idea that

Thus, you see, Mass Pwylord, I had not the slightest idea that the very house selected for our first exploit—for it was the first—was that of my coursin, Horace Massfield I"

You reight almost say it was your own house you burgled."

Taid Core, since your coursin must have purchased Beechcroft

with your money."
"True," said Massheld, with a wan smile. "And there might

almost seem a comic deepent in that but for the frightful tragedy that came of it. Mercoful Heaven! could I but have foreseen!"
"You world have loreseen that mischief would come of it," "Such men as this are dangerous tools to employ." Againsh pointed to the unconscious man.

Againsh pointed to the unconscious man.

Yes, but I stemly forbede all violence!" protested Massfield.

I know that Cronk carried no weapon when we started.

Learned understand what pistol he obtained."

Cora was about to explain when Freddie Figgins appeared, accompanied by a surgeon whom he had fetched from the nearest

Almost at the same instant Cora saw Miffles crossing the field with her brother Kit. With them came Inspector Stunt.

As they entered the shed, the surgeon, who had just completed he examination of the hapless Jerry Cronk, rose to his wer and gravely shook his head.

ise and gravely shook his head.

I can do nothing for the poor fellow," he said, "he is dying."

Dyin, am 1?" Jerry Cronk opened his eyes, half-raising broadf upon the sacks, and glaring wildly around the hut; dyin! I can't die yet! I've got somethink on me mind—somethink that I must tell the boss! Where is he?

Martin Massfield limped forward, knelt and took the man's death hand in his arm.

wandering hand in his own.
"I am here, Jerry," he said; "what is it?"
"Bess, you've bin the early friend I ever had, the only cove as ever spoke me civil," said Cronk, in a faint voice. "I never meant to go agen your orders, s'help me! But I've got ter tell yet alore I puffs off—I—I shot a cove in the thicket at Beech-croft lest night."

Inspector Stunt came closer, notebook in hand. with a revolver wot I found in the billiard-room as I was going through. I didn't take it to use it. I took it because it was sich a swell thing, all thick with silver," said Cronk, in a yet fainter "But the cove be ran out at me as I was going through

the thicket with the bag, and hellered to me to stop.
"I didn't mean to be took—I daresn't be, 'cos I've got a bad record agen me. I ain't like you, boss. But the cove he grabbed me and I pulled the pistel out. I never meant to use it even then, only to frighten the cove. But he made a grab at my hand, we structed a bit, and the thing went off. He dropped, and I chucked the revolver away and bolted. But, boss, boss, I never meant ter do it, s'help me ! I——" I never meant ter do it, s'help mo! I-

The rest was broken off. For Jerry Cronk was dead.

The housebreaker's confession, attested by Kit Twyford, the

curses and Inspector Stunt, of course, completely cleared Carald Chester, who was speedily released.

Martin Massfield was arrested on the charge of burglary, but the balk of the stolen property being virtually his own, and the remainder having been restored to its owners, his public trial was, by Kit Twoford's influence, easily avoided.

Martin resigned the whole of his fortune to charities and went

to New Zealand, where, when Kit last heard of him, he was doing

well as a sheep-farmer.

Captain Dick Garnett and the worthy Mr. Jack Hapforth wisely made themselves scarce after that first, and most disastrous exploit.

THE END. (One double-length complete school tale next Saturday, entitled: "In Open Rebelilon," by Jack North.)

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NEW SCHOOL TALE.



READ THIS FIRST.

READ THIS FIRST.

The train containing the boys of St. Winifred's slowed down alongside Ferndale Station platform, "You bounder! Why didn't you yei!?" Locke, a Fourth-Former, shouted the question to Clive Lawrence—a new boy, but one in no way shy or constrained. "What was there to yell about?" asked Clive. Locke sniffed. "Oh, of course, you don't know; you're a new kid. We're at daggers drawn with the Fifth at St. Winnie's, and Kendal and Keene, who are standing over there, are the heads of the Fifth." Clive joins the party of Feurth-Formers, and they eventually get to the school by capturing the Sixth Form brake. Clive is teld to share a study with Fisher and Locke. Courtney bullies Clive at the teatable, and Clive throws a cup of hot tea in his termentor's face. (Now go on with the story.)

"I was getting my own back, sir!"

Hot tea was soaking Courtney's collar, drenching his black hair, and pouring down the inside of his jacket. The cup fell to the floor and was smashed. The Sixth-Former turned upon the new boy like a tiger.

Clive jumped back. Courtney was looking dangerous.

Mr. Neill was upon his feet.

"Courtney, control yourself! Do you hear—"

But Courtney was too blind with rage to heed even the voice of a master. He sprang at Clive. It was impossible to dodge him and escape. He seized the new boy, and Clive was swung nearly off his feet by the furious senior. A rain of blows descended upon him.

Crash! Clive's blood was up. The plate in his hand smashed in the face of Courtney, and the senior let him go and reeled back. His cheek was cut and the blood was running down it. Clive stood with heaving chest and panting breath.

"Courtney!" thundered Mr. Neill. "How dare you!

Take your seat, sir!"

"You see how he has acted—"
"You had no right to strike him! Lawrence, you may resume your place. Another word, Courtney, and I shall report your conduct to your Form-master!"

Courtney sullenly left the hall to get a change of linen. The tea was soaking down his back, and he felt extremely uncomfortable. Clive resumed his place at the Fourth Form table. He was breathing hard and there was a cut on his check; for Courtney had struck recklessly, and with his clenched fists.

"I take it for granted, Lawrence, that that was an accident?" said Mr. Neill.

Clive was silent. The Form-master looked at him sharply. "Is it possible that I was mistaken, Lawrence?" Still Clive did not speak. He was not the kind of boy to

tell an untruth.

"Answer me at once, Lawrence! Was that upsetting the tea an accident or not?"

"No; it wasn't, sir," said Clive frankly. "I did it on purpose!"

Mr. Neill gasped, and so did the Form. They were not accustomed to such candour as this from a junior. Mr. Neill was keen enough to guess that there was something behind it all.

"Have you any excuse to offer for your conduct, Lawrence?"
"Yes, sir. Courtney knew why I couldn't sit still, and
he grinned at me. I was getting my own back, sir!"
Fisher looked scared. This was not the way to talk to a

NEXT SATURDAY: DOUBLE-LENGTH SCHOOL TALE.

THE SECRET OF ST. WINIFRED'S.

(Continued from the previous page.)

Form master, and he wished he could have given the new boy a lint. But Mr. Neill understood.

boy a hint. But Mr. Neill understood.

"I think I know what you mean, Lawrence. But you will kindly refrain from 'getting your own back,' as you term it, in the dining-hall in future. You will take fitty line."

"Yes, sir," said Clive cheerfully.

He didn't mind that. He had got even with the bully, and

that was the chief thing he cared about

Choosing the Jigs.

Tea was over at last, and the juniors strolled out of the hall, Fisher, Locke, and Clive Lawrence went up to Study No. 7 and began to unpack their belongings. There was coal No. I and began to unpack their belongings. There was coal in the tocker now, and Fisher soon had a cheerful fire going, and the belongings of the three youngsters disposed about the room, imparted to it a very homelike appearance.

Fisher's foils were arranged on the walls, and Clive's boxing-gloves, and room was found for a punching-ball. Fisher had brought some pictures from home, which looked

very nice on the walls, and Locke added a cheap German

clock to the furnishing. Clive, who had no previous warning that he would be required to help in furnishing a study, felt mather left out of it as he saw the chums unpacking the various little brought for adornments had the improvement of the common home,

"I'll stand my whack later!" he exclaimed. "When exclaimed. "
we have a we have a half-holiday we'll go down to the town, if you like, and make a round of the second - hand shops and get some things. I'm pretty flush with money.

Locke . fell upon his neck.

"Doesn't he talk just like a picture-book. Fishy?" he exclaimed.

Fisher grinned amiably.

"Well, I admit he's the right sort." he remarked. "We shall get on if he keeps his place. at these nobby curtains. My mater had them made up for mo during the holi-days. I took home the measure of the windows.'

"Ripping!" exclaimed Locke and Clive Lawrence together.

The curtains, indeed, gave ne juniors had the rigged ne study very cosy produced a revolving-bookcase, and books were packed into it. The juniors were still busy when Pye put his head in at the dear. He gave an admiring glance round the cary

"By Jove, you're making it look nice!" he said. The new kid's in luck. But I say, I looked in to tell yen there's a meeting going on in the hall. You're wanted. "Right-ho!" said Fisher. "We'll come!" And Pra

And Pys

"I expect they're nominating the fags now for the term," said Fisher. "Keep your peepers open, Lawrence, and don't let Courtney get you if he tries. He's pretty certain to try, for the sake of wreaking his nasty spite on you."

"I'll keep out of his clutches if I can," said Clive. "I'll keep out of his clutches if I can," said Clive. "I'll keep out of his clutches if I can," said Clive. "I'll keep out of the week I suppose I have no choice of reference."

"I'll keep out of his clutches if I can," said Clive. "It go to him, though, I suppose I have no choice of refusing." "Oh, no; the Sixth settle all that!" "I don't want to buck against any old-established customs," remarked Clive. "I don't want to run my head ngainst a brick wall, you know. If Courtney gots me as a fag, I'll fag for him. But the first time he lays a finger me I strike. I won't fag for any fellow who can't treat me ane I strike. I won't fag for any fellow who can't treat me

"Well, that's a jolly good plan, if you can carry it our young 'un," said Locke; "but you'll want a big narve, kid."

They quitted the study, turning the gas down to a mera point of light. The hall was crowded when they entered

with fellows of all the Forms at 8: Winifred's, At this hour most of the school had arrived. although there were a few late comers. who would not get in before the morning.

The Sixth were there in force, and seemed to have the proceedings pretty much to themselves. They had been settling matters relative to the school clubs, and electing and re-electing the over, they came to the important question of the fags.

St. Winifred's was a public school of the old sort, and the system of fag ging was in fall swing there. And it was not such a bad system, oither, take it all in all. It wasn't pleasant for some youngstors to come from luxurious homes and start washing teacups and toasting cheese for their masters. But it did most of them good, and took a great deal of the "skie" out of youngstere who were inclined to have swelled heads. When the son of a marquis found himself required to light the fire and lay the breakfast table. broakfast-table common mortal, it filled him with a juster idea of his own real value than he might otherwise have had.

Owing to want of space I am compelled to leave out my usual Chat, but I hope my readers will note the above picture, and look out for it, bearing in mind that our next issue of PLUCK will contain a double-length school tale, by Jack North.—

Your, Editor.

(An extra long Instalment of this popular tale next Saturday.)