THE CHANNINGS.

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

So very unusual a state of affairs was noticed by the senior boy. "What's up now?" he asked them, in the phraseology in vogue there and elsewhere. "Are you all going to a funeral? I hope it's your sins that you are about to bury."

A heavy silence answered him. Grant could not make it out. The other three seniors, attracted by the scene, came back, and waited with Grant. By that time the calm was being broken by low murmurings, just as the first threatened rising of the stormy waters; and certain distinct words came from more than one of the groups.

"What do you say?" burst forth Tom Channing, darting forward as the words reached his ear. "You, Jackson! speak up, what is it?"

"Nothing," Jackson's voice in particular, but several other voices arose then, a word from one, a word from another, half sentences, disjointed hints, forming together an unmistakable whole. "The theft of old Galloway's bank note has been traced to Arthur Channing."

"Who says it? Who dares to say it?" Who dared to say it, Tom had his face on fire, and his blood at boiling point.

"The police say it. Butterby says it."

"I don't care for the police. I don't care for Butterby," cried Tom, stamping with fierce impatience. "Who is Butterby? I don't know, who dares to say it here?"

"I do, then! come, Mr. Channing, things you cannot answer, and can put on your Pope for punishment upon any [illegible] that you choose," answered [illegible], Pierce senior, who was [illegible] marked for [illegible] and [illegible] Mark Galloway, at whose desk he sat.

Quick as lightning, Tom Channing turned and faced him. "Speak out! what you have to say," cried he, "no [illegible]."

"When I related Pierce senior, "I think I am clear." I say that Arthur Channing stole the note lost by old Galloway."

Tom, in his uncontrollable temper, [illegible] and struck him a blow. One [illegible] master's study, nothing more, and Pierce senior was sprawling on the floor, while Tom Channing's clenched fist was shaking in the air.

"Good heavens!" cried Mark Galloway, [illegible] out in that way, but Pierce senior, now it has come to this, I will tell my uncle, this morning, it comes of luck, and there was by, the truth Butterby who was saying it, there was no doubt the theft had been committed by Arthur Channing. Mark, Channing, "Mark, added, turning to him, "I am not accusing this or [illegible] on my own score, but, that Butterby and all, I'll deal [illegible]."

"How is that all?" cried Tom Channing, [illegible] the church [illegible], and not condescending to notice the blind which [illegible] from his back. "You must have in sunder good [illegible]."

"No, I did not," replied Mark Galloway. "I heard them plainly as I hear you now."

"It is not by Bluby Butterby would say, [illegible] before you, to-day," observed Grant.

"Why, that he did not say. I was there myself, [illegible] Mark. "When he said it he was [illegible] of a moment [illegible] I was a mere, and I [illegible] the room [illegible] was good [illegible] H [illegible] Lane [illegible] poverty quick, I can tell you not [illegible] I heard Butterby say that."

"You must have misunderstood," [illegible] Grant, carelessly taking up [illegible] Channing's motion. "I [illegible] you had [illegible] and such a time to [illegible] Arthur Channing is better [illegible] and trusted than you, Mark."

"I didn't mention Arthur Channing to the school. I only repeated to my uncle what Mr. Butterby said."

"It is that only the repeating which [illegible] the mischief in this [illegible], and Grant, [illegible] the boys a little touch of morality [illegible] their mental education. "As to you, Pierce senior, you'll get more than you bargain for some of these days, if you poke your [illegible] into other people's business, like you are in the [illegible] of [illegible]."

"Tom Channing had already [illegible] away to work his home, [illegible] his steps [illegible] Charley, what possessed you [illegible]?"

"You will [illegible] the same, Grant, [illegible] I [illegible] to [illegible] words, [illegible]."

"Very good. That is how you [illegible] Edgecombe [illegible] Grant. "Now, Mr. Pierce senior, can you make good your assertion?"

Pierce had blundered up, and was [illegible] of his [illegible], which had [illegible] under him in the fall, while [illegible] Pierce senior, was collected in a small [illegible] of scattered books, and [illegible] of parental [illegible] for, so sure as Pierce senior got into a fight at school, the chances of his face or his clothes, or even was followed up by punishment at home.

"I was about good, so to Butterby, [illegible] Pierce, who was of a sticky temper as well as a pugnacious one.

"Good horn," interrupted Mark Galloway, [illegible] out in that way, but Pierce senior, now it has come to this, I will tell my uncle, this morning, it comes of luck, and there was by, the truth Butterby who was saying it, there was no doubt the theft had been committed by Arthur Channing. Mark Channing, "Mark added, turning to him, "I am not accusing this or [illegible] on my own score, but, that Butterby and all, I'll deal [illegible]."

"How is that all?" cried Tom Channing, [illegible]