The Free Bress Short Story

"NOBLESSE OBLIGE"

with full power to act."

"But you think we're right?"

"Hm," laughed Mr. Worden.

Last fall, the coach kicked a man off the

Yesterday, he came strutting out on the

"The fellows have already voted, Mr

GEORGE N. MADISON

Kent, not so pleasantly as lead alid into his place at table. "What would you suggest if you

"Not this time, Dad. Oh, we had prace | belonged to both Tribe and Council tice too, but after that we had a meeting of the Tribe-"

"Pootball, I suppose?"

"Well, that football team of yours looks it over with Principal Worden and like a tribe of Indians at times-" "The Tibe—the lettermen, you know." executive committee to-morrow night,

"No, but I don"." "It's a kind of club of the fellows who have won their letters for competition in sports," began Ned patiently; then seeing the twinkle in Mr. Kent's eye, he stopped alsouptly. "Well, we had a meeting -some meeting, too, what I mean."

"Yes, and I know what it was about!" exclaimed sister Beth. "The manger misers!"

"Really, Beth," interposed her mother, those in favor of appointing such a com--does in the manger. You see, we name ed a school rule this spring that letters now rise." Lucila appeared to count. "It | to-morrow afternoon?" should be given for participation in any would seem that the motion is lost." school activities—that the letters should mean that the wearer was representative basis so many points for each achievement, whether it was carrying a dirty old against," she announced. football past dritter players and over a mud-smeared line-"

"Some of the point winners couldn't carry a football across a tennia court with everybody playing marbles," retorted Ned

"No," sweetly from Beth, "and some of these famous athletes of yours couldn't carry-couldn't carry a course in kindergarten if the coach didn't furnish a tutor for each player. I think a good scholar is just as much credit to a school as a good athlete."

"Yeh!" jeered Ned. "That's why you rise." The eighteen who had risen be- play Wentworth!" exclaimed a Senior. hear three loud cheers going up from fore acrambled to their feet. Luclia the rooting section every-time Sylvester Tennyeon makes A in Latin-or whatever Kent, that the same power we had to it is your hero stars at."

"My hero! Well, believe me, it won't it " be any frougy roughneck who looks as if and who stars at gouging out eyeballs or found Mr. Worden sympathetic, but not got a chance-" sticking his knee in the other fellow's very helpful. "You see how it is Ned." wind when the referee isn't looking. I he pleaded, "We gave you student conthink, it's high time we gave medals and trol and we can't very well step in the letters for something besides brute instant things don't go to suit, us. I am strength. And, if I must be personal, I inclined to agree with you. Giving of think I'm just as much a credit to dear some special recognition to athletes is old Brockton as brother Ned, if he is traditional-but ... Tell you what you announced suddenly. "The family of captain of the football team!"

"Hear! Hear!" exclaimed Mr. Kent in majority of the students sign it-" mock admiration. "And what letter are they going to give you?"

"I've got two hundred points out of a good student is just as truly representathousand for a 'B' just like that one on tive-Ned's sweater. And when I get it I'll have earned it. And I'll be just as proud world thinks, Mr. Worden. When it sees of it as he is."

But because they won't he's the best private in the world." mean anything when anybody can win one That's why we had the meeting. "I-I-think you're right," And be're on strike!"

your letters?" asked Mrs. Keat, teasing-

football!" stated his dad.

You wouldn't dare to stay away from classes!" exclaimed Beth.

"Maybe all three!" Ned frowned dark- team and off the squad. He wouldn't

we know how to do. But first we're going such a thing as teamwork. So, for the men in the line and three in the backto give them a chance to come through good of the game, the coach ditched him. like-like gentlemen." "Huh!" sniffed Beth. "I see Miss field with letters as big as a house on Olbbs behaving like a gentleman!"

"She tan't the principal of the school!" "Maybe not But she's the boss" "But I thought you had student rule or something," remarked Mr. Kent.

"The Student Council, they're the ones be done." who passed the rule in the first placeit's up to them. It's up to Principal Worden, too. They'll do what he tells them, and hell do what we tell him-or

his old school won't have a single "And won't that tickle Miss Gibbel"

heated Beth "She dislikes athletes and athletics eape tally football. If she had Der Way:_

"Wed all be entered in the knitting la marathon, to finish up the last click of the needles in The Old Ladles' Home. But wait till the news leaks out to-morrow. There's a meeting of the Student Council at three o'clock, and I've been elected to break the sad tidings to them!"

The news had leaked out long before three o'clock, for everywhere, in corridors, study rooms and laboratories, excited little knots of boys and girls were noisily or stealthily discussing the Tribe's decision. The news did not come exactly like a thunderbolt to the Student Council though there was considerable scratching of heads and more than one anxious frown as Ned finished.

"I'think," said Luella Marks, president of the Council, "that this is too big a question to be settled without discussion and thought. Will some one make motion that the decision be held over till

to be put off. I don't belong to the

Stickney-loyalty and more loyalty. that team. Before every game. tired of preaching-yes, and I'm tired of students, even. lovalty - the kind we get from the Stundent Council."

"What do you propose to do?"

"Nothing. . We've all turned in our latters to the boach. We're giving up football or whatever sport we're interseted in. - I'm sorry, Mr. Worden, but that's how it is. As for that petitionwell, we've been loyal to the school-Mr. Council; so I can't tall you what to do, we've fought for it, we've taken kicks and bumps and bruises and been rolled in the mud. Now we'll see how-loyal the

belong?" demanded Philip Carodon, who If Ned expected that loyalty to be manifested in immediate action he was "I'd suggest that some one sorely disappointed, for nothing happen- as he was football coach," quietly, motion to appoint a committee ed. True, there was plenty of discussion and the students took sides, but nothing report back to a special meeting of

"This meeting isn't going to be stamand that seemed to settle that. . The past record." peded into any rash action-" began coach had quietly accepted the condition "No." agreed Ned, after a glance at but it issent enough to bother-nobody. Lucila's pause for recognition and blurted. "I-move that we secent Ned Kent's suggested that he needed some one to another." acrimmage his "greenies." "Second!"-"Second!" rame from a

"Good!" exclaimed Ned. . "We're talk-! "Very well," agreed Luella coldly. "All ing about re-organizing as a town but not the Student Council!" how'd you like to be our coach? . We "They're jealous, that's what I mean mittee please rise." A great scrambling could scrimmage your other team any of it, anyway. Your sister." followed. "Sit down. Those opposed night. How about a practice game, any

> - dime, say, for tickets. That'll help "I trust," and Ned tried to keep his you to get your uniforms. I'll furnish voice level, "that none of you mind if I you with suits for the game to-morrow." take the matter up with Mr. Worden now | That was a game worth going miles to

> -right away. The Tribe is used to foot- sec. The Tribe team, for the first quarball, basket ball, baseball; where decisions fer, played star football, the score was have to be made instantly, and right. I thirty to nothing. After that they playrather think," meaningly, "that there ed everything but football. They dewon't be any football practice until this liberately fumbled the ball, missed punts got in the way of their own runners, rain "Perhaps you'd like to take the deci- the ball the wrong direction. In the last sion of the Student Council with you to minute of play, however, they carried Mr. Woren," remarked Lucila sharply, the ball the full length of the field in "All those in favor of retaining the six downs.

> present rule for granting letters, please "They can't send that scrub team to "Yeh?" grinned Ned, coming off the counted grimly. "And I think, Captain field.

> Monday he met Coach Stickney. pass that rule would enable us to retain "Scrimmage to-night?" "Really, reach, I don't think it's fair

Ned stalked wrathfully out of the room to your team. The best way to train he needs a bath and isn't likely to get it and into Principal Worden's office. The fellows is to make 'em think they've "I've coached football several years. Maybe you'd better leave that to me. You'll bring the fellows out?"

"Sure, if you say so, coach, but-" "You heard me," said Ocach Stickney. That night at the dinner table. Beth might do. Get up a petition, and if a Kent has been greatly honored of late. Pirst, its beloved son becomes the captain

"Well-1-1, yes and no. Of course a its daughter becomes-guess what." "The queen of Sheha!" retorted Ned. "A member of the Student Council "But that isn't what the rest of the Ruth Kelsoe has resigned; her people are moving to Wentworth."

of an outlaw football team, and then

a 'B' on a sweater it thinks the wearer "Huh," grunted Ned. "One more vote "As he was," corected Ned, quietly, has won it for athletic ability. The for the 'letters for everybody' party. "When and if that day comes, off comes United States Government won't let a Perhaps it's just as well. But I have my letters. Not because you've got one, private wear a captain's uniform, even if to laugh when I think of Ooach Stickney's lectures about how loyal the school "I see your point," agreed Mr. Worden, had been to us and how we must justify their confidence and all that rot!"

"Of course I'm right," exclaimed Ned: "Where's your loyalty now?" demand-"You're not going to refuse to wear "Why, it's just like-like counterfeiting." ed Beth. "With the Wentworth game "But only a few days away and that bunch of what started this ruction? You made no dubs--

"You're not going to refuse to play objection when the rule was passed last "Well, if that fact won't wake up the school and your precious Student Council, "We didn't see how it would work out. Why should it worry us?"

"But the school has a right-" ly "We're giving them just a wrek to play ball He broke training rules. He Maybe we can't right it, but at least we think things over-no threats, but if they played a dirty game; he refused to obey can quit being boobs. By the way, we don't come across there's plenty of things the roach; he didn't know there was s. rimmaged the team to-night-with five field I feel sorry for Coach Stickney.

Friday night, after light practice, his sweater, won them by the point Coach Stickney called the Tribe into his office "I'm laying my cards on the "That was bad," agreed Principal table fellows I've been scrinimaging Worden gravely "Well, you tell the you against the scrubs for your sake, not theirs. I want you to play the game fellows to sit tight and I'll see what can

> "You know how we feel, coach " "I know how I'd feel, which amounts

I'm sure that you can make them I to the same thing; but I know some-, thing even more important. I know how "I've preached and so has Coach you'd feel if you threw me down, And threw the achool down. Because, you I'm know, the school is more than its mebby are prescher are a good man.

> your sweater, or what it stands for? in faver of maken a ft. ball out of neetly You know what it stands for: I know evry thing & all so lots of kicken and what it stands for-the finest bunch of etc. Hooray for the Rev. clean-playing youngsters I ever knew. You've tried to make the Student Council worth, and then let's tell the Council, were at but a endoorence contest. That's what the "B" stands for."

ill week," accused Ned. true to the ideals I've tried to give you. that Jimmy Stickney was as poor a man sed I diddent need none of same & that

"You put us in a tight spot-" happened. The Student Council had of old had a saying 'noblesse oblige'- the same way as my Pa. Onct. voted; so there was nothing further for case exactly. You just can't go back on them to do; the Tribe had voted, too, mobleness compels me'-that fits your how much are a 15d of 2. Blisters fig-

and had set about organizing a new team, the other members of the team, "I'm diddent no neether but my figgers cun formed out of scrubs and new recruits. afraid we can't, We'll play. After all, out just about like Blisterses. Meeting Ned on Friday morning, he had we've got to be loyal to you and to one Thursday: Are school ft. ball teem

"And the school, too, Ned!" "Oh, all right; the school, too, then;

"Why-what's she-" "Why, fine!" agreed Coach Stickney, she succeeded in winning the Student does noboddle no good. How about teath "I demand a count!" exclaimed Philip. "That goes for the coaching job, the Council to a compromise. Hereafter only then sed that new kid in school. I bleeve "I'll call the roll," agreed Luella grim- scrimmage and the game to-morrow. Tell a small 'B' can be won by the point he are about 14 smart. I wood of never of the school. They put it on a point ly. She proceeded to call each name in you what. We'll announce at assembly system. The big 'B.' sewed on some that. turn. At the last-"Twelve for, eighteen this afternoon and make a small charge emblem to represent the sport in which Saturday Late in the evning. Xperi-

> stuff you were made of -- just wanted you the reported the dose sevral times. ception I made before accepting the score were but ferrit it Council's new deal."

"What was that?" "That it shouldn't go into effect until had awarded one big 'B.' 'That goes to Beth Kent: she's the most valuable

"Well, that's thirty," laughed the coach, 'account of a fishing adventure in which But how about Beth?"

"A whole touchdown for her!" Next day he made it, in the first ten the table

NICELY .PUT

Wife-Mrs. Green has another beautiful fall hat Artful Hubby-So? It's a ot as independent of such aids to anpearance as you are, my dear.

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SLATS DIARY OLIVER N. WARREN

Sunday: I are a beginning to think This a. m. he took as his text Make a "What do you care about a letter on it, ball outen ain & then kick it. I am

Monday: Jake dessent think so well of his preecher of a nother church. The proud of you, and failed. Now let's try- toecher ast us all what we that of the making them ashamed of themselves sermont Sunday w. m. & Jake replide A Let's go up to-morrow and lick Went- sed it wassent a serment at all where he supose his minnester talked for sum "You've been figuring on our playing time.

"I've been figuring that if you weren't moosepaper & they was a advertisement what I need is sum-thing for a bad apetight, like a 14 a dos, donuts & the "You put yourself there. The knights same of cookeys. Strange to say. I fel Wednesday: The teecher aut Blisters

matched a game with the sixt grade of the Washenten school over acrost the R. R. tracks. I feel sorrie for them Washenten kids late Saturday evning "Well, you can be loyal to one member The victry is in the bag for us kids Priday. The teecher was a teeching are class onesty and etc. & sed to all-"Nothing much. Only this afternoon ways remember that nothing false never

was won-a football, for instance- ents has tot me a lot this p. m. The will be reserved for the major sports." , unxpected offen happens. Them Wash-"But why didn't you tell us before-." enten school ft ball kids rambled all "Because I wanted-to see the kind of over are teem like we wassent there & to be true to yourselves. Anyway, I super me & Jake & Blisters wassend wasn't sure you'd stand for the one ex- funkshening as the skeel Supt says The

FIX THEM BOTH

'Don't worry, coach. We'll give you perhaps a little exaggerated, was doubtone point for each member of the Student less substantially true. A Scotsman however, immediately capped it with an he landed a sen-serpent two hundred fee long. The hunter was offended and left

> "Now, Mr McTavish," said the host "you've insulted a friend of mine and ought to apologize." "Weel," said McTavish, "if he'll tak" wee bit off that tiger. Ah'll see what Ah

can do aboot ma serpent"

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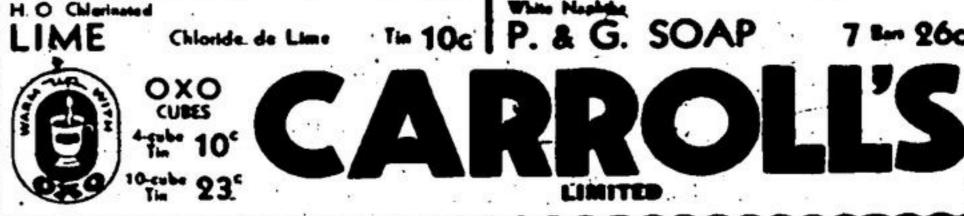
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