

have enough to do," retorted Laurie, defiantly; for he was roused to anger by the tone of his schoolmate's remark, and knew well that Drewitt would never venture to try his strength upon him.

Dr. Barton came back, followed by Drewitt, who walked with an air of studied carelessness after the master; and, instead of taking his place amongst the other scholars, went boldly up to the doctor's desk, and stood there.

"Were you present when Maynard was struck?" asked the master.

"I was on the ground, sir, but I did not see him struck," replied Drewitt, promptly.

"Now, permit me to ask you an unusual question, Drewitt," continued Dr. Barton. "I want to arrive at the truth of this matter, and I intend putting to each boy in the school the question I now put to you, namely, on your word of honour as a gentleman, do you know who it was that threw the ball?"

There was a momentary pause, and it seemed as if the boys held their breath in suspense; then the curt, defiant answer came, "I do not."

"That will do," said the master; and Drewitt walked out of the school-room again. As each boy came up and was questioned, there were varieties of statements, but no positive information. The evidence of some pointed apparently to Drewitt; but, in the absence of any proof, Dr. Barton dismissed the suspicions as unworthy in the face of Drewitt's own unqualified denial. The younger boys especially seemed to have made their minds up to believing that Drewitt alone was capable of doing such an act; but, however strong their convictions, they were of no value in promoting the discovery of the offender. Not until James Laurie came up to give his evidence did the master receive any additional information.

"The ball was not used in the game, sir, and who-