

# THE BROKEN LANCE

## CHAPTER I

### THROWN TOGETHER AS DICE

"Morgan Yeager, stand up!"

It was one boy of one-and-twenty commanding another only a little younger; but Emerson Courtright had back of his command all the mightinesses which make up authority—and Morgan Yeager stood up. A thrill ran through the room. Would this favorite pupil be actually punished, or was it a disciplinary feint? A crisis in the little government was clearly recognized. The handsome young teacher's word was to be kept, now, or broken.

"One promise I made to the school-board when I was placed here," said Emerson. "Fighting—rowdyism—has been the bane of the school. I promised to stamp it out. After the rule is laid down, it makes no difference whether it is broken by an old offender or some other pupil. Is it true, Morgan, that you were fighting with one of the Collins boys on your way home from school last Friday?"

"Yes, sir," responded Morgan; "I was fighting with both of them."

"Did you not strike the first blow?"

"Yes, sir; I struck the first blow."