

THE STUDENTS' MONTHLY.

THE KNIGHTS OF MAPLE WOOD.

CHAPTER IV.

FURENS QUID FEMINA POSSIT.

Ned Ellis' enthusiasm for his new scheme communicated itself to not a few of his schoolfellows; and the Boys' Association for Chivalry, was for the moment exceedingly popular. Many who had been at first inclined to ridicule it, and to institute disrespectful historical parallels between Edward and Peter the Hermit, or Don Quixote de la Mancha, treated the movement with more respect when they found that the Warden of the School was shown to approve of it, and that Cyril Ellis—who, even as a College student, retained his influence as a popular sixth-form boy—was to take a leading part in the mysterious organisation.

There was a general rush to Cyril, of those who wished to be admitted as members, as well as of the general public, who were, of course, desirous to know all about it. Cyril had fortunately reserved in his own hands the power of selecting new members; he limited his choice to a few of the elder boys, who had been confirmed, telling the others that the thing was as yet only an experiment, and that if it worked at all well, so as to deserve the boys' confidence, the number of members would be increased. So, on the evening, when they were to meet the Warden, only ten boys accompanied Cyril to that potentate's study. Sing, oh! because the names of the heroes, whence they came, and from what fathers born. There was Tremaine of the fifth form: him Upper Canada sent forth from its woods, the abode of the wood-chuck and the chip-munk. His father was a warrior, a major of volunteer artillery, a terror to the invading Fenians. There was Waller, whose sire was a States governor over the descendants of the Pilgrims,—even the men who say unto you, "let's liquor," on what Mrs. Hemans calls "the wild New England shore." He was a friend of Edward's and of Cyril's, and "he guessed he would like to make one." There was Fellowes who had left Rugby only because his father's regiment had been ordered on Canadian service; Fellowes whose ideal of a perfect life was taken from "Tom Brown's school," and who had been for a long time fostering Ned Ellis' aspirations by his accounts of Rugby school organisations. From slippery Quebec and sloppy Toronto, came Edwards and Herbert; the latter famed for skill with the boxing gloves, the former in horsemanship. There was Bill Hamilton, of Kingston, who had bowled out the Matchbrooke