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OLD ROGER'S BIT OF PRIDE.



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CHAPTER I.

GLINDERSES.

GLINDERS' COURT, or "Glinderses," as it was commonly called, was not an attractive locality to live in, but it was always filled to overflowing. It was only a little bit of a place, bounded on two sides and one end by cottages. At the other end, which fronted the street, was a wide, arched entrance, and over this, and running the full width of the court, was a single good-sized room, wherein dwelt the oldest inhabitant of Glinderses.

The court had once borne a more aristocratic name. Originally built by a Welshman, he had given it the title of Glendower's Court; but it was rarely called by it. Three syllables were not easily

dealt with in those days and in such neighbourhoods. Tenants complained that they "couldn't tongue" that big word.

"It's too grand a name for such-like as uz," was a frequent remark. So the court was, by common consent, re-named "Glinderses."

The first owner saved money, and finding himself, like the name of the court, too big for the neighbourhood, sold his first venture in bricks and mortar, and retired to a safe distance from the spot where he had laid the foundation of his fortunes.

The new owner knew nothing of Glendower. His tenants called the property "Glinderses" and he supposed they ought to be better informed than himself, so took their version of its name.

After the fashion of new brooms, the fresh landlord resolved to make the court more attractive by painting the outside thereof, though he did not think it necessary to look within, or trouble himself about such trifles as drainage or internal cleansing. He put on a little extra rent per week, to repay his outlay, in the shape of cent. per cent. interest, and, as a finishing touch, caused the name and title of the spot to be placed in large letters over the archway. So "Glinders' Court" it is to this day.

In the single room over the arch lived "Owd Roger" all alone. He had lived there longer than any other dweller thereabouts could remember. Each new comer to the court had found him there, and those who left and moved away—