

"Ha! Of course you haven't found it, because you haven't looked in the right place."

"Where?"

"In the pockets of the trousers of Henry Glyde, otherwise known as Tubbs."

"Look here! I wish you would drop that. I tell you I can't believe he has had anything to do with it."

"I'm certain he has, and I have just as much right to my opinion as you have to yours."

"Not at all. When you say you are certain you mean you strongly suspect—unless, of course, he has owned up. Your suspicions, if you go bellowing them out as certainties, may damage the fellow for life. My strong conviction of his innocence cannot injure him in any case."

"You're so plaguy logical and all that sort of thing. Why, you make no more fuss about losing half-a-sov. than if it were a bone collar-stud."

"Well, if I'm content to be calm under such a crushing catastrophe, what do you want to make a bother for—eh?"

"Now, Prior, look here," said the collector, producing his book with an air of triumph, and pointing to "Henry Glyde, ten shillings."

Certainly Prior was taken aback for the moment, but he determined, as a point of honour, to keep his suspicions to himself—the collector was prejudiced enough already—so he only replied—

"What of it? Did he give you half-a-sovereign?"

"No, you idiot! Oh! I beg pardon. That's just the point of it. He said he hadn't got it then, but would fish it up before Saturday. Bah! when the sneak had it in his pocket all the time."

"How do you know?"

"Know. Why, of course I know, and you know, too. You know, you know; now don't you know?"

The collector was fast becoming incoherent, which made it all the easier for Prior to keep his counsel.

"I say, Prior, you're enough to vex a saint. I thought I'd got evidence enough to track your half-sov., and you won't even look at the case, but sit there grinning like a big baboon."

The collector was a privileged individual. He was so small and weakly that big boys left him alone, because they feared he would come to pieces if they hit him. Little boys couldn't touch him because he was surrounded with the halo of the Sixth Form.

"It vexes a saint because I won't believe another chap to be a sinner. Who is the saint? Where is he? Let me kick him."

"Oh, very well! I don't care about your wretched ten bob, I'm sure. I haven't lost it."

"A fact of which I reminded you just a minute ago. Now clear out, vanish, scoot!" exclaimed Prior, throwing a cushion at the collector's retreating form.

All the same, when he had gone Prior turned the matter over and over in his mind. "Curious, yesterday Tubbs had only three shillings; to-day he promises ten shillings. If the collector had only known the little fact—I sincerely hope he does not—he would have found some even more complimentary epithets to bestow on my stupidity. No! I can't think it; I won't think it; he's going to write to his father after all, and chance it. Tubbs may be a fool; he may be easily led; but I do not believe he is a *thief*."

(To be continued.)

GARDEN WORK FOR AUGUST.

Kitchen Garden.

SOW winter spinach. Dig the ground, and sow in drills, about a foot between the rows. When the plants have come up thin them out to three or four inches apart. The spinach will be ready for picking in October. Sow cabbage about the middle of the month, also coleworts and red cabbage. Also winter and spring onions. Cauliflowers should be sown about the third week in the month. When the plants have come up they should be pricked out in glass frames. They are very tender, and will not stand the frost. Plant out broccoli, savoy, and coleworts. Transplant celery into trenches, and earth

up the plants which require it. Sow turnip, lettuce, mustard, cress, and radish seed. Seeds which are now ripe should be gathered. After being cut down the stalks should be spread out in the sun to dry.

Fruit Garden.

Protect fruit from birds, wasps, and other insects.

Flower Garden.

Take up perennials which have now done flowering, and divide the roots into as many pieces as are desired, but not too small, and plant them out. Transplant seedlings of perennials and biennials. Gather seeds, and clear away all withered leaves and stalks of plants in flower.