

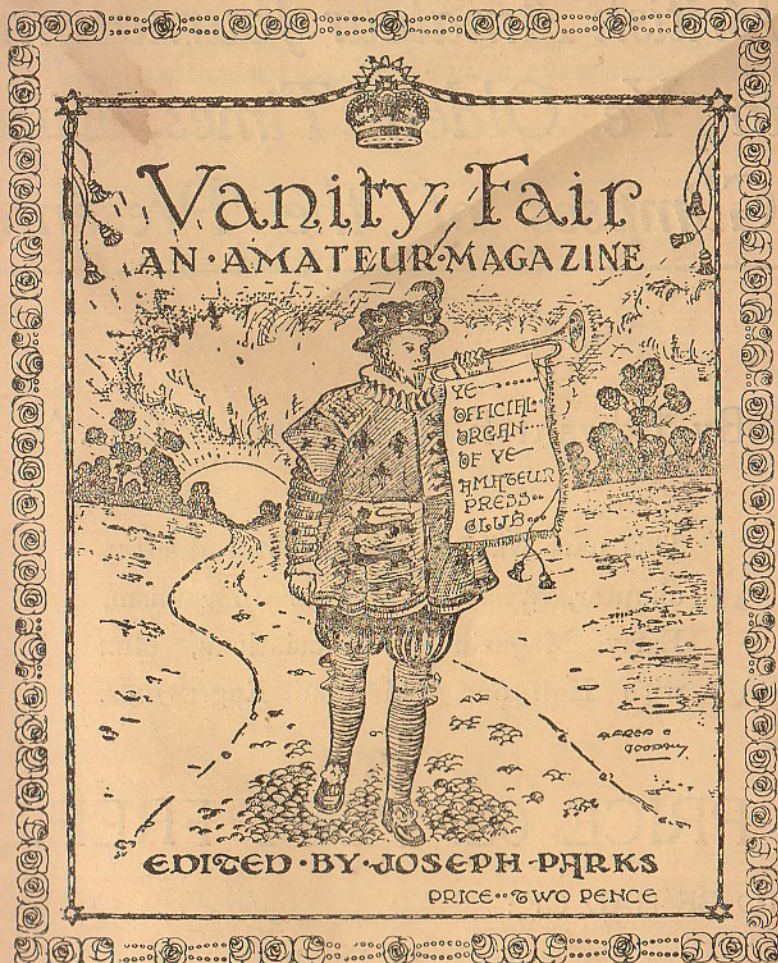
# VANITY FAIR

*An Illustrated Amateur Magazine.*

No. 18, Vol. 2.

Threepence.

January, 1926.



Printed and published by:

Joseph Parks, 2, Irvin Avenue,  
Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks.

PART 1 READY IN JANUARY.

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*British Amateur Journalism  
in Ye Olden Times, with  
Glimpses of the Present.*

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By Edward F. Herdman, B.A.L.A.

This part will contain an introductory chapter, What is Amateur Journalism, Early Magazines, Associations, etc., with Half-tone and Line Engravings.

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No. 18, Vol. 2.

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## ARE YOU A PIRATE?

BY STANLEY L. WATT.

Are you a pirate? No, I don't mean a giddy buccaneer who sails the high seas and flies the Jolly Roger. I'll explain to you just what I mean.

The other day I happened to call on a journalist friend of mine. When I entered the room he was busy tapping away on his typewriter, rattling along at a tremendous speed as if he was sending out an S.O.S.

There was nothing really new in that, but suddenly something caught my attention. Lying beside his machine was a newspaper cutting. In a moment I had summed him up. He was a literary pirate! what some people would call a hack writer.

I had always wondered how on earth he was so successful in getting his articles accepted, but now I understood. It was all so simple. After a time I got the "wheeze" out of him. Each day he would go through the daily papers, weekly periodicals, and such-like, and when he came across an interesting article—snip-snip, with the scissors, and out it came. He would alter it here and there, take a bit out, add a bit here, and there it was. So easy!

But you must'nt blame him. He was not the only "pirate," oh no, not by a long way. There are crowds and crowds of them who simply must crib other people's ideas because its too much trouble to think out something original for themselves. But, because they put their "heads in the fire" so as to speak, there is no reason why you should do the same.

You must understand that you cannot become a budding journalist in one day. You must first get a style, that is to select a favourite subject of your's. Take for instance the sea. By choosing this subject you would have an opportunity to write some good stuff. Mysteries of the ocean bed, deep sea diving, life beneath the sea, lost islands, and missing atlantis's. In fact hosts of things that would make interesting reading. You see the idea ?

Perhaps one of the troubles of an amateur journalist is gleaning his information for the articles he wishes to write, but there are plenty of public libraries where one can become a member and so this little difficulty is solved.

An amateur's first articles should be bright, short and interesting, but not too much detail. Three months of that kind of practice should find him becoming quite an experienced hand and, within another three months he should be making good headway.

Napoleon said that he feared three newspapers more than one hundred thousand bayonets, and the late Lord Grenville once mentioned in a speech that the penny papers of New York did more to govern America than the White House at Washington. Why?

[TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH.]

Mr Stanley L. Watt, the author of this interesting article will be pleased to give free advice on Journalism. If in doubt or difficulty write him. His address is 48, St. Luke's Road, Kensington, W. 11.

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## OLD BOYS JOURNALS, ETC.

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BY J. J. DARBY.

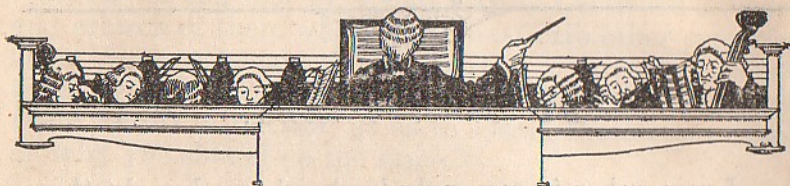
I remember in my early boyhood, we bought these surreptitiously as they were all taboo. I can remember seeing "Boys of England," etc., about 1891-2, containing Black Dwarf, Left-Handed Jack, etc. At that time "Comrades" started with A True British Sailor Boy, and stories by Ralph Rollington, Vane St. John, and Lightning Charlie by B. Hemyng. In the early nineties "Golden Hours" was published in Gough Square, and contained very fine tales, mostly American; but also contained Slap Crash Boys, Young Ching, Ching-Ching and his Chums, Veiled Captain, and others by E. H. Burrage.

I also remember the publications of Guy Rayner, between 1885 and 1890—"Boys Graphic", "Boyhood" "Boys Jubilee Journal" and gripping tales they contained. Dacre Clark and Guy Rayner were one and the same person, he was also a mesmerist, but he never continued a journal very long.

I also remember the "Boys Standard" with Waggy Wum by Burrage, World of Ice, The Haunted School, and "The Imprisoned Heir. "Boys World" came out about 1880 and contained a story by W. H. G. Kingston, which he objected to appearing in that journal, but they had bought the copyright from another firm.

We must not forget the four vols. of "Unioa Jack" edited by Henty, 1880-83. Only four vols were published. I believe the vols. of "Comrades" contained the same stories, or similar to the "Boys World".

## THE FOURPENNY GAFF



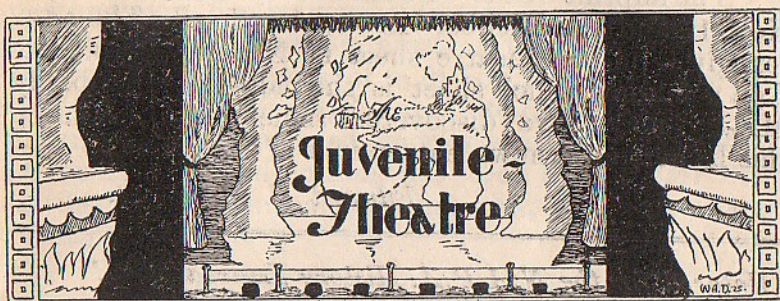
BY JOSEPH PARKS.

(Continued from page 53).

To crown all we had the unexpected pleasure of seeing Hamlet ejected by his angry wife, armed with a broomshaft. Still they got through it somehow. The "ghost" had failed to walk, and there was little harmony in consequence amongst the artists.

Taken as a whole, these Barn-Stormers were a good hearted, happy-go-lucky lot of lads, who gave us many pleasant hours and left us many happy memories. They must have had to put in some real hard work to produce a fresh piece each night, not to mention the necessary alterations in costume—no mean factor to the majority, whose wardrobes were rather scanty.

But now all is changed. The Barn-Stormers occupation is gone, and the travelling theatre but a memory. What village in the country now, but can boast of its picture house, and its wireless concerts? Still the flickering films come and go—flash and go past, and are gone for ever. There are no broad-sword combats performed in the flesh to gloat over, no beetle-browed villain to hiss, and no hero to cheer. And yet many of you, like myself, have I daresay, a secret longing for the "Fourpenny Gaff" which so amused us in the days of our youth.



## MARCH'S "MOTHER GOOSE."

Referring to my short article in No. 14 "Vanity Fair", and to Mr Jay's interesting addenda in No. 16, I have now come across another of March's sheets. This, however, is not one of his Theatre series. March did not confine his business to the Juvenile Theatre, but published table games, and probably many other items of an entertaining character.

The sheet now before me is titled "March's Royal Game of Goose. Price One Penny." It is beautifully coloured. The centre of the sheet is occupied by a disc in the middle of which is Mother Goose holding the proverbial golden egg in one of her hands, flying on the back of her favourite steed. Surrounding are two circles of numbered grotesque figures. Directions for playing the game are given, with 25 stanzas of rhyme. The 25th runs:—

*"Mother Goose by starlight flies  
on the air with golden prize,  
Her share will be the total hoard  
When all are served she clears the board,  
The game all over her task is done  
Her only aim to cause some fun."*

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The imprint reads "Published by James March, No's. 11 and 12, Webber Street, London." The address given on the Theatre sheet is No. 24, Webber St. I do not know which sheet is the oldest; but probably Mr Jay may have discovered some data concerning this hitherto unknown entertainer of the young.

*Edward F. Herdman.*

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*"Entered for the N.A.P.A. History Laureateship."*

## IRISH AMATEUR JOURNALISM.

*By WILLIAM A DOWNES.*

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When one thinks of Irish Amateur Journalism there are three people who stand out prominently in the mental vision. Firstly John Bray, the first amateur to be discovered in Ireland. Probably at earlier periods in Irish History there were amateur journalists, but these have left no visible record of their work; so until 1916 nothing seems to have been heard of Irish Amateur Journalism. There lived in Dublin at this time, one John Bray, as aforementioned who edited, printed and published a fine little magazine the "Juniors' Journal," a copy of which lies before me at the present moment. The get up, printing and contents are quite good, though, as the name implies, it was chiefly for boys. Let us turn to another link in the chain. About the middle of 1917 a youth made the acquaintance of John Bray, and, in collusion, they worked the "Juniors' Journal".

This youth was none other than James W. Carpenter, who in 1919 founded the Irish Amateur Press Association. This was a big step forward in the interests of Irish Amateur Journalism, for it established the



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pastime more firmly by providing an organisation which would look to the best interests of the Cause. Fortunately this pioneer was of a disposition which faced all trials and difficulties with a resolute calm. The Junior's Journal was discontinued shortly after the establishing of the I.A.P.A and nothing has been heard of Mr Bray until some months back. He has now, I believe, a large printing business.

At first the Irish Amateur Press Association was well received by the "parent" organisation in England namely, the British Amateur Press Association. Progress followed and by the end of the year 1920, the membership reached 400. Evil days were to come however. New officials took the reigns of government of the B.A.P.A. and these were antagonistic to the Irish association. The result was a great falling off of the membership. To make matters worse, Mr Carpenter took suddenly ill in 1921 and for six months whilst convalescent, he remained inactive. This proved the death blow, for the Association needed a strong man at the helm to pull it through the mass of discontent and chaos. The inevitable end was, of course, stagnation; distrust had set in.

On his recovery the fighting spirit of Carpenter was roused, and he immediately set about the reconstruction work. It was truly a terrible fight because the former members were dead against the association. Success, however, came slowly, very slowly, and, in 1922, when just two years previously there had been 400 members, there were just 40 members. Since then, with all the political trouble in this country, progress has been slow but sure. Mr Carpenter held the office of President from 1919-1925, and his work for the Association will never be forgotten.

[TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH].

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## OLD WOOD-CUT BLOCKS.

BY EDWARD F. HERDMAN.

(Continued from page 57).

It must not be taken for granted that Ballads, or Chap Books, had no existence previous to the period with which we have dealt. From the time Caxton set up his printing press in the precincts of Westminster Abbey in 1474, this class of publication can be said to date; for prior to that time ballads had been preserved orally, or in written form.



FIGURE II

Nor must it be assumed that all chap-books were of the "sensational" class. On the contrary there was a healthy counterblast in the shape of books of a religious

character. Accordingly, the same publisher is found issuing the "Life of Jack Sheppard, the notorious House and Goal Breaker", with "The Penitent Robber" as a companion. Or, again, the lurid chap-book entitled "The Frolicsome Captain; or Tit Tit for Tat", is discovered coming from the same office, as "A Guide for Sinners to Repent". But more striking still, we have the incongruity of the terrible "Miller of Dron" keeping company with "John Bunyon".

All manner of subjects are dealt with in these little books, comic, sensational, educational, religious, historical, and legendary—the aim of the publisher being to cater for the tastes of as wide a circle of readers as possible.

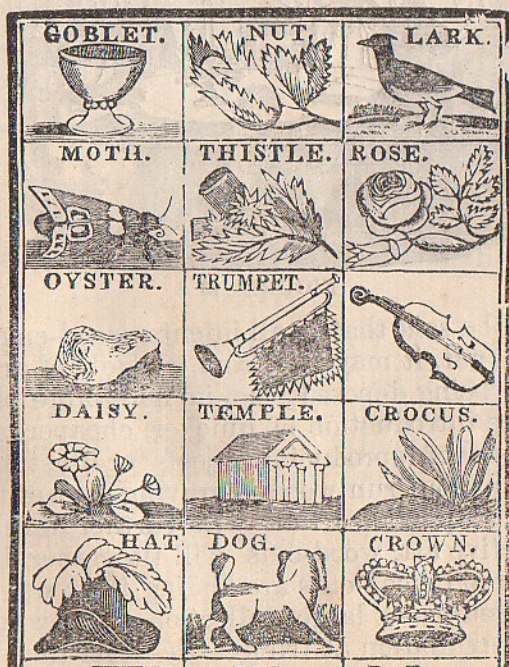


FIGURE 12

The block shown at Fig 11 is the actual block used on the front page of the evergreen chap-book of "Sweeny Todd, the Barber of Fleet Street.

Figure 12 is part of a block used for illustrating children's toy books. This is not so old as the crude blocks illustrated at page 34. Consequently both artist and engraver has turned out a much higher order of work.

Figure 13 is another block of London craftsmanship, and is of the same period as the cut (Figure 10), previously illustrated.

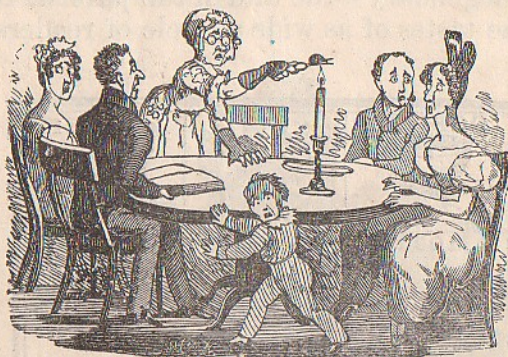


FIGURE 13

It can be said that, to all intents, wood-engraving is a lost art—not, it may be, from a lack of artists, but through its being deposed from its heretofore proud eminence. The introduction of quicker, cheaper, and more exact processes of reproducing objects for illustrative purposes have all but run wood-engraving out of the field; and it may be predicted that with further developments in reproductive art, wood-cuts will altogether disappear. Already the old wood-cuts are finding their way into our public museums—a large collection of Bewick wood-cuts are on exhibition at Newcastle—and the time may not be far distant when it will be found impossible for a

private collector to get together anything like a representative collection.

Much more could have been written upon this subject, and many additional wood-cuts could have been shown, but what has been said may put any would-be collector in the way of knowing the class of thing to look for.

*Mr Herdman will contribute to an early issue of "V.F." an article on "Street Song-Sheets", specially illustrated*



## An Insult to "Old Timers".

A few Remarks to C. A. HOARE and the B.A.L.A.

The attitude taken up by the B.A.L.A. and its Official Editor in particular, towards the old time amateurs, is not justifiable. The Editor has apparently seen a few old-time amateur papers of the "thumb-nail" type, and takes these as a sample of the period he refers to. Were he to see our collection of amateur papers he would get his eyes opened. Many items in it have no rivals in present day Amateurdom, either in beauty of printing, paper, type, or literary merit. As to his remarks, or rather insults, on the interests of the past generation of amateurs in rabbit keeping, we pass them by with the

contempt they so well deserve. We would, however, like to suggest to Mr. Hoare, that he subscribes to Mr. Herdman's "History of British Amateur Journalism", before he again attempts to write upon a subject of which he understands or knows nothing.

As to the decadence of the present B.A.L.A. we wish to make a few remarks, although the Xmas No. of the "Cat" has fully substantiated the truth of that journal's remarks.

There is at present no printed magazine issued by any member of the B.A.L.A., excluding "Orpheus" which in our opinion is semi-professional and not amateur in the true sense. The whole of the interest has to be sustained through the medium of the Official Organ and a few scrappy mutual admiration M.S. magazines, with no artistic and little literary merit. Their circulation is limited by sheer necessity to about a dozen readers. Each issue costs its unfortunate recipients, fourpence to sixpence in postage.

And this is all the present B.A.L.A. has to offer for its 5/- a year subscription. We could say more, but space is too precious. Moreover, it is not our intention to teach the officials of the present association how to manage and make their organisation a success.

## MAGAZINES RECEIVED.

*British* (Printed) Cat, No. 85, South Eastern Amateur No. 10, Waverley, No. 3, Orpheus, No. 4, Vol. 3. (M.S.S.) Waverley, No. 4, Caledonian, Nov.

*Irish* (Duplicated) Collector, No. 5.

*Australian* Australian Amateur, No's. 2 & 3.

*American* Tryout, No's 5 & 6, Vol. 10.

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## THE PERSONALIA OF THE "PENNY DREADFUL".

By *FRANK JAY.*

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Mr Matthew M. Hunter in his extremely well written article recalls to me many items of interest I discovered when making my researches for "Peeps into the Past", for "Spare Moments" a few years ago.

It is indeed deplorable that so little is known about the old time bohemian writers of boys stories, but this is not to be wondered at when you consider the standing these old writers had in the social scale.

If you read that small, but, intensely interesting work, "The Ruin of Fleet Street", written by the late E Harcourt Burrage in 1882, you will find that drink was the downfall of most of them. Mr Burrage gives some wonderful pen pictures of these old writers and their characteristics, and Edwin J. Brett, told him that he had only touched the fringe of the subject.

These old writers lived from hand to mouth writing off a few chapters of the serials they were engaged on, and drawing the pay for same as they went along, and spending it at the "Old Cheshire Cheese" and other public houses where the knights of the pen in those days, used to forgather.

There is therefore no wonder that they passed into oblivion, and no record was made of them or their works. Mr Burrage was about the only one who kept his head up, and he was highly respected by all who knew him. Fox, the Emmetts, A. R. Phillips, Charles Stevens, Vane St. John, all passed into oblivion. For the last named a whip round was made by the Knights of Fleet

Street to save him from a paupers' burial.

I have been trying for some time to find what became of Bracebridge Hemyng, but beyond that he was last heard of in U.S.A. nothing else appears to be known of him, so I presume he also passed into oblivion. He has 34 records under his name in the B. M. Catalogues. The last two, "A Brighton Mystery" and "A Stock Exchange Romance" are dated 1894, and at the bottom of the page someone has written in ink "Jack Harkaway". This is the only mention, (semi-officially), in the B.M. of his being the author of that series of fine stories.

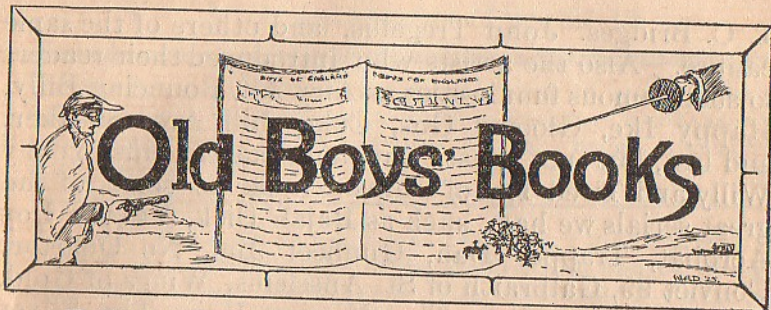
With the death of poor Mr. Charles E. Pearce, so well known and admired for his fine stories in the "Young Folk's Weekly Budget" and other of Henderson's publications, which took place on Nov. 9th, 1924, following a serious operation at the Chiswick Hospital, the last of the old bohemian writers and authors has passed away.

Mr Pearce I am pleased to say stood his operation bravely considering his great age, 83, but fate was against him and he died practically in harness. He had just completed his latest fine story *The Queen of Crooks* a fine detective tale. He lies buried near the chapel at the Town Hamlets Cemetery, Bow, E., and his tombstone bears the inscription "author", so it can easily be found. He was the last of Henderson's old writers.

Some three years ago I called upon him when he was then very busy with his exceedingly fine story "Corinthian Jack", which was soon afterwards published and also filmed, and I had the pleasure of attending the trade show.

[TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH].





## PERIODICALS OF 1900-12.

BY ARTHUR L. BUDGE.

A literary feast and a great period of boys publications: powerful machinery, all modern appliances, skilled workmen, all combining in the effort to produce the best 'weekly' on the market. What fine penny and half-penny papers they were, too; sixteen to thirty-two pages in each, good paper, clear large type, all for the benefit of the boys of twenty years ago. These great journals in their way, were equal if not superior, to the old time Boys Standard and others of fifty years back. Clean, healthy and thrilling, serial and complete stories, with characters and interest alive from start to finish; pithy short complete articles on all sports, hobbies and pastimes; how to do this and that, and how to become proficient and expert in the many occupations of life. A galaxy of comic characters that the boys of those days now look upon as old friends, gone but not forgotten, The Big Budget, Boys Leader, Boys Herald, Friend, Realm, Empire Library, Marvel, Pluck, Union Jack, Boys of the Empire, Surprise, Nuggets and many others.

Who can deny the superb writing qualities of authors like David Goodwin, Sydney Drew, Hamilton Edwards, Henry Farmer, Henry St. John, Maxwell Scott,

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T. C. Bridges. John Tregellis, and others of the same calibre. Also the artists who introduced their readers to such famous funniosities as Airy Alf, Bouncing Billy, Happy Ike, Gloomy Gus, Cokee Bill, Area-Sneaker, and last, but not least, our immortal friends Weary Willy and Tired Tim of Chips. Look at some of the great serials we had, such as Rajah Dick, Val the Boy Acrobat, Trapper Dan, Gunfleet Jim, No Quarter, Convict 99, Galbraith of St. Anselems, Wings of Gold, An Eye for an Eye, The Missing Heir, The Silver Dwarf, Guy Prescott's Trust, Gilbert Nameless, and the fine Boys of St. Basils Series by Henry St. John. Also, we must not pass over S. Clark Hook's famous trio, Jack Sam and Pete, (not omitting Agly and the dog Rory).

The Aldine Dick Turpin Library (No's. 1—182,) were a glorious set, and each issue complete in itself. The thrilling escapes and adventures of Dick, Blueskin, Tom King and Co., against the Bow Street Runners, where enthrilling with Beetles and Peters supplying the humorous items. I hope at some future date to give you further details of this splendid time, for the benefit of the readers of the old boys periodicals of two decades ago.

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### GOODY GOODY PAPERS.

In an article in No 15. of "V.F." I was struck with the reference to the Nuneaton miner, who felt such an interest in the old B.O.E. as to collect the whole 60 vols. Our friend is hardly just however, in referring to (in his lists of wants) B.O.P. and Chums as goody goody books. Such a remark is absurd. I myself am the author of one of the longest serials in Chums of 1923-4 'The Blue Mask', and whatever else it is, it is not goody goody. Your paper sent me back to the days when I subscribed to the "Monthly Magazine", a noted amateur paper.

EDWARD BLAIR.

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WANTED. Old boys papers issued 1900—12. Boys Herald, Boys Friend, Boys Leader, Boys of the Empire, Big Budget, Nuggets, True Blue, Pluck, Marvel, etc. Also old printed and manuscript amateur magazines. J. Parks, 2 Irvin, Ave., Saltburn, Yorks.

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FOR SALE. Ellen Percy, (Reynolds) vols 1 & 3, 2/-, Brett's Bob Blunt, 2 vols 2/6, History of old boys books, 6/-, Boys Own Paper, 6 early vols (bound) 18/-. All post free, will exchange for others. J. Parks, 2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn-by-Sea.

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WANTED Boys Periodicals for 1880—1900. Aldine Coy's publications including The Lambs of Littlecote, The Island School and The Brave Boy of the Basilisk. Also several boys papers, similar to dispose of, sale or exchange. Hunter, North Lodge, Sweethope, Musselburgh, Midlothian.

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FOR SALE Metamorphoser Lantern, 306 Slides, 7 Rackwork, 26 Comic Slipping, 2 Slide Boxes, 2 Carriers, Bargain £5. Also 100 Gramophone Records. New condition and up-to-date. 8/- a dozen. All carriage paid. Parks, Ivanhoe Press, Saltburn-by-Sea.

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## STOP PRESS NEWS.

The "Amateur Press Combine" is proving a great success. Support and members are being received from Australia, America, and the British Isles. An energetic secretary has been secured. Support British Amateur Journalism and join at once. Particulars from the Secretary, Mr. Tom L. Lamond, 11, Forbes Street, Aberdeen. Full details next month.

# VANITY FAIR OLD BOYS' BOOK CLUB.

SUBSCRIPTION 2/6 PER YEAR.

*Formed for the purpose of the sale and exchange of old boys papers, and for drawing into closer companionship lovers of the old boys journals.*

*Each month a list will be published and mailed free to members. The list will be in three sections: for Sale, Exchange, and Wanted.*

*All that is necessary to become a member is to forward a postal order for 2/6 to Joseph Parks, 2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks, with list of what you have to sell; or wish to exchange; or what you are in search of.*

*Announcements must be kept as brief as possible, and consist of not more than 48 words, but can be changed monthly. The subscription merely covers postage, etc., but affords at once a reliable medium for collectors to add to their collection or dispose of their duplicates.*

*We solicit the support of all interested, for unless a sufficient number of members are enrolled it cannot be a success. Send that P.O. to-day, it may save you pounds, and bring to you that elusive item you have been searching years for.*

JOSEPH PARKS, 2, IRVIN AVENUE,  
SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA.

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Printer and Publisher:

Joseph Parks, 2 Irvin Avenue, Saltburn-by-Sea.