HuUcKLER ERE Y FUN

by a good deal. No, sir, we'll just go on and ransom them in the reg-

ular way.”

“All right. I don’t mind; but I say it’s a fool way, anyhow. Say, do we

kill the women, too?”

“Well, Ben Rogers, if I was as ignorant as you I wouldn't let on. Kill

the women? No; nobody ever saw anything in the books like that.

You fetch them to the cave, and you're always as polite as pie to them;

and by and by they fall in love with you, and never want to go home

any more.”

“Well, if that’s the way I'm agreed, but I don't take no stock in it.

Mighty soon we'll have the cave so cluttered up with women, and fel-

lows waiting to be ransomed, that there won't be no place for the

robbers. But go ahead, I ain't got nothing to say.”

Little Tommy Barnes was asleep now, and when they waked him

up he was scared, and cried, and said he wanted to go home to his

‘ma, and didn't want to be a robber any more.

So they all made fun of him, and called him cry-baby, and that

made him mad, and he said he would go straight and tell all the

secrets. But Tom give him five cents to keep quiet, and said we would

all go home and meet next week, and rob somebody and kill some

people.

Ben Rogers said he couldn't get out much, only Sundays, and so he

wanted to begin next Sunday; but all the boys said it would be

wicked o do it on Sunday, and that settled the thing. They agreed to

get together and fix a day as soon as they could, and then we elected

‘Tom Sawyer first captain and Jo Harper second captain of the Gang,

and so started home.

Iclumb up the shed and crept into my window just before day was

breaking. My new clothes was all greased up and clayey, and I was

dog-tired.