

LEMUEL HEWS – WELSH

Lemuel Hews confronts his brothers Frank with the news that their brother Jack has been arrested for taking part in a political demonstration.

“Shush – Olwen – Frank I please; you’ll wake our mam. There’s something me ‘an Frank got to ‘tend to something I can’t talk about in front of strangers. That Jack of ours – the damned young fool as he is – has been an’ got hisself pinched at last. I did try to tell our mam, but when she said she was nearly dropping for want of sleep, I kept my mouth shut. She’ll hear soon enough, I thought. Let her have a sleep, I said to myself. She told me you an’ Olwen was in the front room. So I waited until I was sure she was asleep... He was pinched down in Ponty’ for opening that trap of his – an’ not clearing off the Market Square when the p’lice told him to – there was a bit of a rough house at the finish. Oh, I’ve told that kid till I’m sick o’ telling him – an’ now he’s landed hisself in the clink. A spell in the chink’ll do the young flamer good – but it’s our mam I’m thinking about. As if she didn’t have enough on her plate without him acting the goat. An’ now he’s with a few more of his comrades in the cell down Ponty’ – ay, an’ that husband of our Gwen’s is lucky he’s not there with him. But he dropped the banner an’ slung his hook. I met him as I was coming home from the dogs, met him as he was on his way up here to tell our mam. ‘I’ll tell mam’, I told him. But when I tried to tell her... Yes, he’s done it at last. Six months on skilly – lucky if he gets off with six months. Put years on our mam, it will, worse luck...”