

**BAXTER'S SECOND  
INNINGS: SPECIALLY  
REPORTED FOR THE  
SCHOOL TEAM. PP. 9-59**

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Baxter's Second Innings: Specially Reported for the School Team. pp. 9-59 by Henry Drummond

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**HENRY DRUMMOND**

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SECOND INNINGS

*SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR THE*  
*—SCHOOL TEAM*

BY  
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"TROPICAL AFRICA," "FIRST," ETC.



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1892

at  
Henry S. Curtis  
9-12-39

## PREFACE.

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I THINK the best thing I can do, if I must make a Preface, is to print this letter from Baxter's small brother to another boy:—

DEAR CHARLIE,

Would you believe it? some fellow's written a Book about Fred! I think he's in an awful way. N.B. The Book's a swindle. Except the story of a Castle (and one about a soldier or something) it's all yarn. I've not read it. What a licking we gave the Junior Pelican! I made 13, but they bowl frightful sneaks. Please tell Whitemouse to send me the crib to Caesar instanter.

Yours ever,

MIKE.

P.S. Don't cut me for sending that book about Fred. I had to. And for my sake don't open it till Sunday.

P.P.S. Monday. I've read it. It gets awfully serious some places. By the way, tell Whitemouse never to mind that crib just now.

M.

9-14-39 FWA

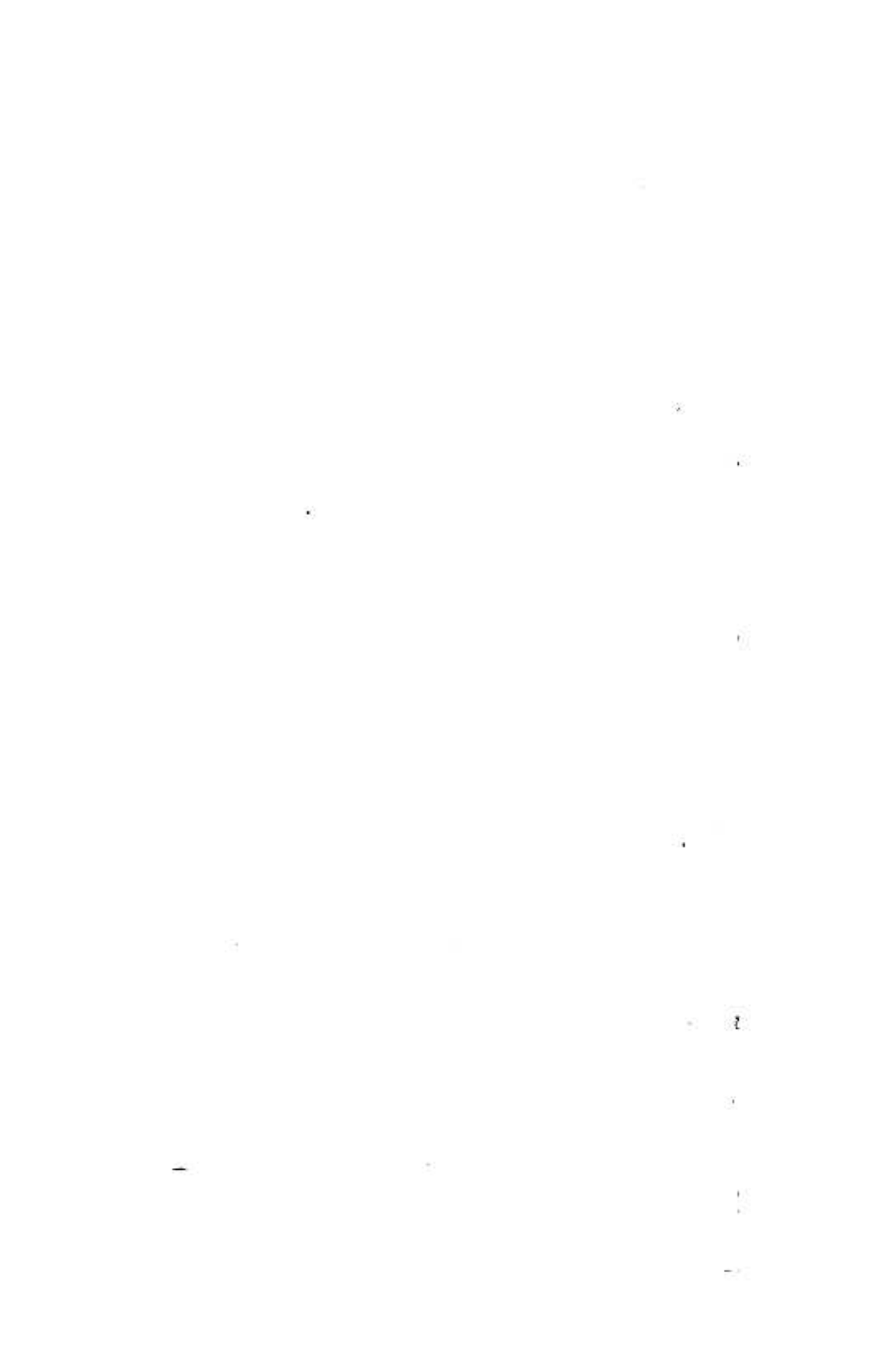


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## CHAPTER I.

### BAXTER'S FIRST INNINGS.

"MAN IN!" cried the umpire, and the fielders fell into their places. The Bowler \* stepped back a pace and poised the ball in his fingers. You never saw Power more clearly written on any face—it was almost weird; and his arm worked like a steel spring. The new Batsman, on the other hand, was only a boy. His cricket jacket was painfully new, and so were his cap and wondrously varnished bat. And the expression on the great

---

\* *i. e.* The Pitcher.

Bowler's face when the "man in" walked to his wicket was strange to see.

This was Baxter's first great match. I suppose this accounts for it that he did not recognize the Bowler; but to those of the spectators who *did*, the casual way in which he handled his bat was really ominous. "Does that greenhorn know he's playing a *match*?" growled one of them. "If he doesn't wake up I'll back the first straight ball to finish him. The ass hasn't even his pads on."

At that moment the first ball whizzed down the pitch, and if it had been a hair's-breadth more to the right it would have been all