

**A FEW WORDS OF
ADVICE TO A PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOY**

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A few words of advice to a public school boy by An Assistant Master

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AN ASSISTANT MASTER

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BY

AN ASSISTANT MASTER.

SECOND EDITION.

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1846.

1202.

It has been the desire of the writer of the following hints, to write so plainly, that few boys at a Public School, even the youngest, are likely to misunderstand him: yet, at the same time, by no means to confine the advice which he has to give, to them. He trusts that older boys who may meet with this little work, will find in it some useful practical hints.

A few alterations have been made in this Second Edition.

F. P.
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FEW WORDS OF ADVICE

TO A

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOY.

You have been sent to a public school ; and since not only your personal comfort, but, which is of greater importance, your credit, will depend much on the manner in which you conduct yourself during your stay, I wish to say a few plain words to you. I do not write at random ; I do not even write a set of rules which I *fancy will be likely* to be of use to any one in your position ; but having been myself situated as you are at present, and having now for some

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time seen boys so situated, I write to you the results of my own experience; and I feel sure that you will believe, when you have read my few words of advice, that they are dictated by a friendly spirit.

You have come here either from home, or from a private tutor, or from a private school. You may probably have been told that one great difference between a public school education and one received at the places which I have just mentioned is this, that a boy at a public school is left more to himself during his play hours, and indeed during all the time that he passes out of school, than under any more private system. It is not unlikely that you may find what you have so heard to be true, and that you will be now in some degree more independent than you have yet been. The first piece of *advice*, therefore, which I have to give

you, is this:—if you feel that the eye of your master is not so constantly upon you at all hours as it was before you came here, let this feeling make you desirous to do your duty carefully. It is no matter of chance that you are more independent than you once were. You are allowed to be so, in order that you may gain manly habits of thought and action. Try to gain them. Try to act aright on a far higher principle than a desire to do your duty in the sight of men. Remember that though you may not be so constantly under the eye of your master as you once were, you are not at all less constantly under the eye of God. The change that has taken place in your circumstances by your being removed from home, or from a private tutor, or from a private school, has laid you under new obligations to act aright. In placing you where you now are, God

has been pleased to commit to your care another talent, which you must be careful to use in His honour, and for your use of which you must certainly give account to Him. Start with this feeling firmly impressed on your mind, "I am sent here by the good providence of God, to whom all my thoughts are known, as well as all my actions." Remember, that you have been baptized into the Church of Christ, made His soldier, bound to honour Him before your companions. Remember, that the assistance of God's Holy Spirit has been given to you in baptism, and let it be your earnest endeavour not to resist His gracious warnings. No other feeling is so sure to raise you above a cowardly fear of the opinion of other persons, as a constant belief of God's presence with you, and of your duty *to Him.*

