

**OUT OF SCHOOL AT
ETON. BEING A
COLLECTION OF POETRY
AND PROSE WRITINGS**

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Out of School at Eton. Being a Collection of Poetry and Prose Writings by Some Present Etonians

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SOME PRESENT ETONIANS

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BEING

*A COLLECTION OF POETRY AND
PROSE WRITINGS*

By SOME PRESENT ETONIANS.

"Liberius si
Dixero quid, si forte jocosus, hoc mihi jura
Cum venia dabis."

HORACE, Sat. I. 4.



London:

SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON,
CROWN BUILDINGS, 68, FLEET STREET.

1877.

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PREFACE.

THIS little book is what its title sets it forth to be, viz. a collection of miscellaneous writings with the composition of which we Eton boys have from time to time occupied our leisure hours. Several of them were printed in *The Etonian*, a literary paper which flourished here about a year ago; but a number have not yet appeared in print, and are now indeed for the first time brought together. The numerous requests made to us to republish some of the former in the more connected shape of a book, first induced us to think of venturing on the step which we have now taken; and the support which has been promised us in the case of our doing so, will we hope justify the somewhat ambitious attempt. At the same time we trust that the idea of our work will commend itself to our readers, inasmuch as it is from a desire to prove that literary talent, or at any rate literary

spirit, is not extinct at Eton, and that Eton boys can find interest in other occupations than the mere ordinary routine of work and play, that we have overcome the diffidence which we naturally feel at submitting our endeavour to the eyes of the public.

Our readers will we hope excuse the miscellaneous character of our writings, and the promiscuous manner in which they have been brought together, but the task of arranging them in a more careful manner is one which from our inexperience we have shrunk from undertaking. It seemed better to us, on the whole, to present them just as we wrote them, with here and there an explanatory note, and to trust to the good nature of those under whose notice they may come, to excuse all minor faults and deficiencies, and to take our book for what it is worth as an attempt, the first which has been made for many years, to vindicate the literary prestige of Eton.

THE WRITERS.

ETON, *May*, 1877.

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OUT OF SCHOOL AT ETON.

AN HOUR OF MY LIFE AT ETON.

I SAID before I went to bed
At half-past six I'd rise,
But, as in some strange book I've read,
Things can't be done by being said,
And there the moral lies.

For all the things that overnight
Did most important seem,
Are trifles view'd by morning's light,
And early school is alter'd quite
Into a hideous dream.

For what on earth's the use "to post
With such dexterity"
(You see I'm quoting from the Ghost
In Hamlet) where no butter'd toast,
No coffee waits for me?