

**RECOLLECTIONS OF  
AN ETON COLLEGER,  
1898-1902**

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Recollections of an Eton Colleger, 1898-1902 by Charles Herbert Malden

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**CHARLES HERBERT MALDEN**

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BY  
C. H. M.

ETON COLLEGE  
SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., LTD.

1905

## PREFACE.

DURING the few years that I had the honour of enjoying the bounty of King Henry the Sixth as a Colleger of Eton, I met many people, wholly or partially ignorant of Eton life and its ways, who were most anxious to know how we "got on" in College. They asked many questions, and I gathered from their general tenor that the world at large, or such part of it as was at all interested in Eton, believed that the Collegers were badly housed, badly fed, and generally had a most "rotten time of it," if I may use schoolboy slang.

Looking back on my school-time, I can say with perfect sincerity that, far from being badly housed and badly provided for, I have never spent such happy years as those with "Mother Eton" in the classic shades of College.

Now that I have left, I am most anxious, if possible, to dispel the absurd ideas that many people

seem to hold on the subject; the more so, as among the numerous books that give most detailed and amusing pictures of Oppidan life, I do not know one of any at all recent date dealing with that of the "Good Old Eton Colleger," the oldest inhabitant and founder of the greatest school in the Empire. I hope therefore that these few reminiscences, which I put before the public with all humility, may, if they fail to amuse, at any rate interest the reader and show him that College is not the "Dotheboys Hall" that some people will insist on making it out, despite all sayings to the contrary.

C. H. M.

*H.M.S. Triumph,*  
*June 1904.*

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CHAPTER I.

CONCERNING BUILDINGS AND ORGANIZATION.

COLLEGE at Eton, or "Tuggery," as it is known to the School generally, consists of the block of buildings in which the seventy Foundation Scholars live and have their being. These seventy (known to the non-scholars or "Oppidans" as "Tugs," from the Latin "togati" or "wearing the gown," the mark of a Colleger at all schools and roll-calls) are boys, who at the ages of twelve or thirteen have obtained scholarships at the competitive examinations held yearly at Eton in the summer time. These scholarships have no actual money value, but entitle the

holder to get the main part of his education, board and lodging, free, thus working out to be worth about £120 per annum to the boy's parents. They may be retained until the end of the term, known at Eton as a "half," in which the holder reaches the age of nineteen, and, in exceptional cases, for perhaps two halves longer with due sanction from the Head Master.

College proper is divided into three main blocks of buildings, Long Chamber, New Buildings, and last, but not least, the Hall with the kitchens and cellars underneath it. There are also the official residences, the Chapel and the Cloisters, not to mention various "Yards," but, as these are not such an integral part of the actual dwelling-places of the boys, I propose to deal with them more fully a little later on, when I have done justice to the parts that more nearly concern my narrative. To obtain a general idea of the "lie of the land" I must first request my reader to study for a few moments the plan at the end of this volume.

Long Chamber is situated on the upper floor of a block of buildings, dating from the foundation in