

**COLLEGE SONS
AND
COLLEGE FATHERS**

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College sons and college fathers by Henry Seidel Canby

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HENRY SEIDEL CANBY

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SONS *and*
COLLEGE
FATHERS

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TO
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PREFACE

FOR this book I have chosen the essay rather than the chapter as a unit of division, so that I might be able to discuss each of my topics as a subject important in itself. The ten essays here included proceed, I am emboldened to think, according to a development of experience and of thought that is coherent even if not severely logical. The first five treat of profit and loss in college life and college teaching; the last five of the broader problems that the American college must meet. But I have had no desire to mark out my field into sections, and cover them all. It is too extensive, too full of life and perplexity and happiness, to dogmatize and classify and divide and define within it. If I had been possessed of an elaborate pedagogical doctrine, I should have spent more time upon mapping the corners, and less upon trying to say truly what I have seen and what I think. Indeed, I am more interested in

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college life, college students, and conditions as they are to-day in our colleges, than in any program or theory whatsoever.

As it happened, it was not the rage of the propagandist, but rather the creative working of happy memory, and sobering experience reacting upon thought, that led to the writing of this book. Hence he who so desires may read these essays as a literary, and I trust not unpleasant, transcript of experience, selecting his topic as he chooses his cigar, for the promise of its label. Or if his interest is more professional, he will find the principles that I have endeavored to draw from observation applied and reapplied to the problems of the American college.

I have written for undergraduates, present, past, and prospective, and for the parents of undergraduates. It is true that I have addressed these essays to college *sons* and college *fathers*. But they may be applied, I believe, doubtless with important modifications of detail, to college daughters and the mothers of college daughters as well. It is a sufficiently difficult task to describe even the sex one knows best, when it is involved in the obscure proc-

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esses of getting educated. And so I have ventured to write for, but not of, the woman in our colleges.

I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of *Harper's Magazine* and *The Yale Review* in permitting the reprint in revised form of these essays; and to thank a hundred unnamed undergraduates for a personal relationship without which I would not have had the courage to pretend to whatever insight they may possess.

HENRY SEIDEL CANBY.

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT,
June 17, 1915.