

**BOYS AND
MASTERS: A STORY
OF SCHOOL LIFE**

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Boys and masters: a story of school life by A. H. Gilkes

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A. H. GILKES

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OF SCHOOL LIFE**

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A STORY OF SCHOOL LIFE

BY

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MASTER OF DULWICH COLLEGE

SECOND EDITION

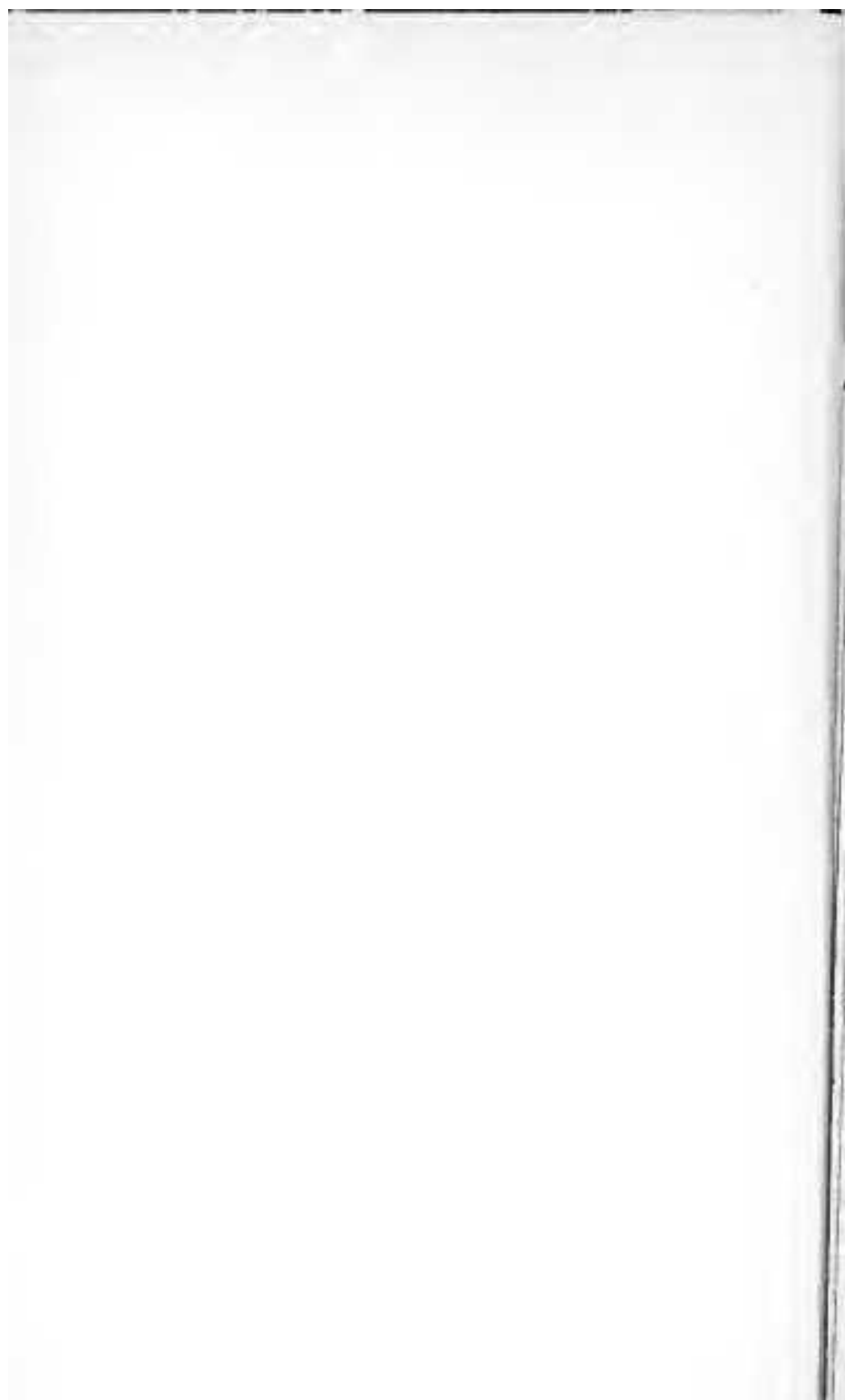
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PREFACE.

THIS is a story of school life, written because I have had much to do with boys, though nothing to do with story-telling, as is perhaps only too evident. There are a great many stories of school life in existence; but very few of them seem to give a true representation of it. I do not know whether this story is any better in that respect; I can pronounce no opinion upon it; I can only say that it seems to me to represent my experience. I send it with many misgivings into print. I have had before me, while writing it, several principles, the most prominent of which

are largely the result of the training they receive as boys—training at home, and at school—so largely that a schoolmaster's position is actually terrible. I have written also with a strong feeling of surprise, which has been growing for fourteen years, at the indifference many parents show with regard to the formation of their children's character and the unfortunate lessons which many parents permit their children to learn at home.

THE COLLEGE, DELWICH:

May, 1887.

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BOYS AND MASTERS.



CHAPTER I.

PLACING.

ON the first or second day of term there will always be seen at a school little groups of boys, who drift, rather than walk, about the school premises; shyly avoiding the rest, looking at anything that there is to see in a thankful but only half-interested manner; finding some feeble kind of support in each other, as sticks may stand up leaning one against the other. These are new boys, and a man in after-life will often compare his most desolate and bewildered moments to those first few days at school. Take courage, little new boys; you will be old boys before long, and seem six feet high to your suc-