

THE CHRONICLES OF DAWNHOPE

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The chronicles of Dawnhope by G. F. Bradby

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G. F. BRADBY

**THE CHRONICLES
OF DAWNHOPE**

He was affable & approachable
to the humblest and most
timid of his parents



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THE CHRONICLES OF DAWNHOPE

BY

G. F. BRADBY

AUTHOR OF "THE LANCHESTER TRADITION," ETC.

ILLUSTRATED BY ROBIN



LONDON: WILLIAM HEINEMANN

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PREFACE

THE determination to identify people and places is so strong among those who read books, but do not write them, that I may be forgiven for stating briefly what is the scope and origin of this story. In the course of my life I have been acquainted with many schools, but Dawnhope is not one of them ; I have conversed with many headmasters, but I have never yet met Dr. Tregarras. My *dramatis personæ* have accompanied me in my walks and sat with me at my writing table, but I have never seen them in the flesh. If I have succeeded in investing them with anything that at all resembles life, the people who imagine that a book is like a picture and that every character in it is drawn from a model, will be sure to ask, " Who was he thinking of ? " —at least, I suppose they will ; because they asked the same question about " The Lanchester Tradition." The simple truth is that I have not been thinking of anybody. But I *have* been thinking of certain new ideas, which are the common property of all

schools and all schoolmasters ; and I have invented the kind of characters who would best illustrate the situations that may be derived from them, in a story which is not meant to be taken too seriously.

The educational world is seething with new ideas—a new psychology, new theories of discipline, new methods of teaching, new subjects to be taught, new forms of expression. Everywhere they find a few fanatical supporters and a few fanatical opponents. Most people (headmasters included) are sometimes attracted by them, sometimes amused, and sometimes repelled. Time will sift them ; whatever is valuable in them will remain and grow old, whatever is futile will be forgotten on the scrap heap. Meanwhile they are new ideas, and, as such, they are fair game. If they cannot stand the test of laughter they will not stand the test of time. And if we are never to laugh at new ideas, because a few people insist on treating them as new religions and a few others cannot distinguish between fun and fact, we shall become a nation of megalomaniacs, like the Germans before the War.

G. F. B.

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