

**SCHOOL BOY LIFE
IN ENGLAND. AN
AMERICAN VIEW**

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School boy life in England. An American view by John Corbin

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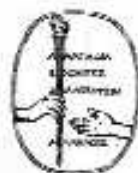
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JOHN CORBIN

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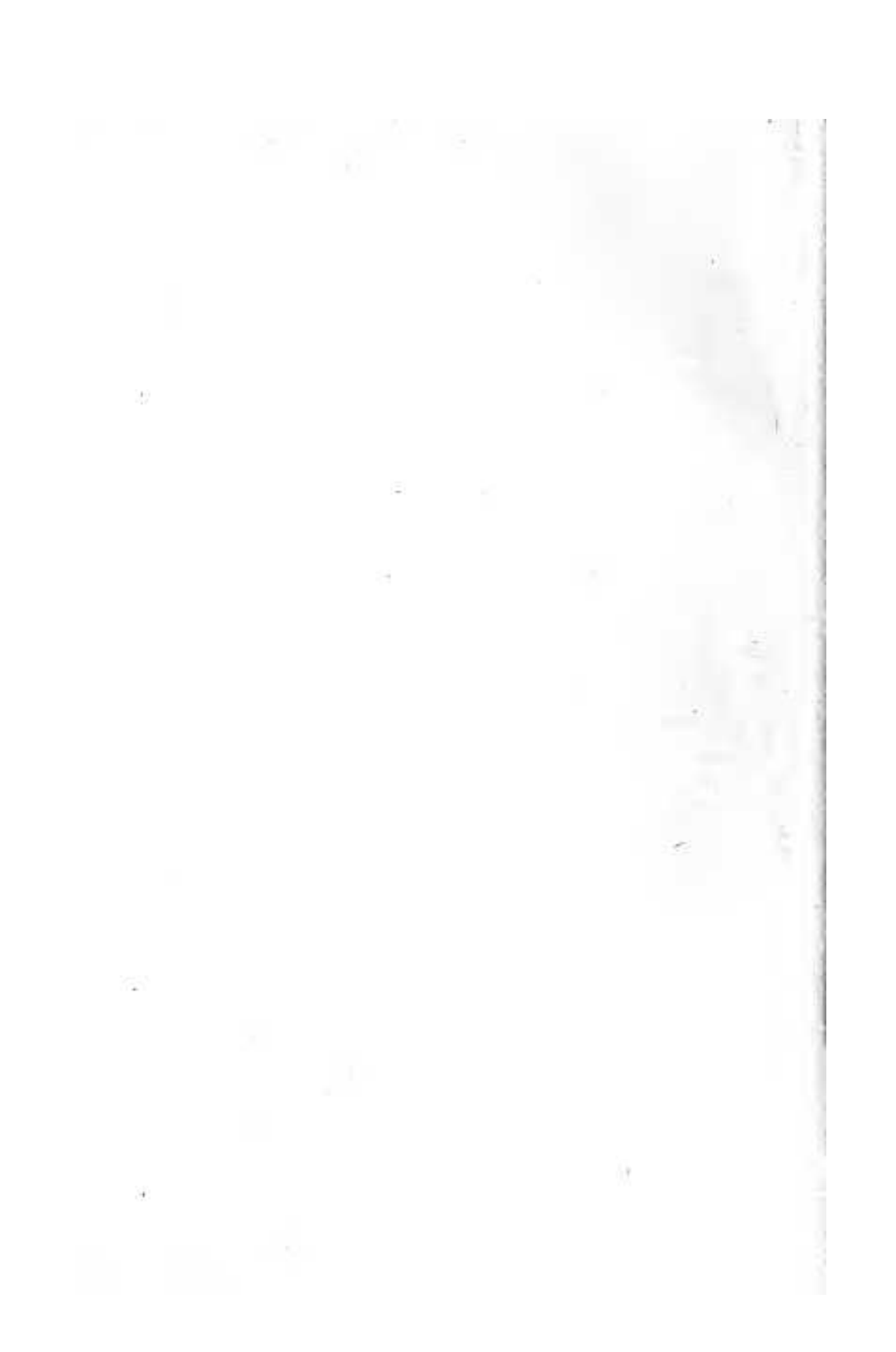
)) SCHOOL BOY
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AN AMERICAN
VIEW BY
JOHN 'CORBIN'



MDCCXCVIII

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PREFACE

My first interest in the English schools was aroused by living for about a year and a half on intimate terms with the undergraduates of Oxford. The result of English school education, it appeared, was to make a man surprisingly solid in character and at the same time surprisingly simple and natural. The Oxonian has a firmer knowledge of himself and of the world of men than the Harvard man, and at the same time a greater measure of the spontaneity and exuberance natural to youth. The system which pro-

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duces such results seemed well worth a closer consideration ; and, being asked to prepare a series of articles on life in the English schools for *Harper's Round Table*, I undertook the task with enthusiasm. I went to live for a short period at Winchester, Eton, and Rugby, the schools which, more than any others, have contributed to the growth of the English educational system. At each of these I met and conversed with as many of the masters and boys as possible, and lost no opportunity of seeing their actual life.

In rewriting the articles which were the result of these studies, for publication in book form, I have benefited by the conversation of "old boys" of both English and American schools. In addition, I have read the chief books on the subject. The main facts as to Winchester are to be found in *Wyke-*

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hamica, by Rev. H. C. Adams, M.A., and no single volume on the English schools contains so much interesting and instructive reading. *A History of Eton College*, by H. C. Maxwell Lyte, C.B., is scholarly and exhaustive. *A Day of My Life; or, Every-day Experiences of Eton*, by an Eton Boy [George Newton Banks], is a humorous sketch that will well repay half an hour. For Rugby, Stanley's *Life of Arnold* is the work of most value; and those portions of it which bear particularly upon education have been gathered together, with an instructive preface, index, and an interesting bibliography of books on all the public schools, in *Arnold of Rugby*, by T. T. Findlay. *Great Public Schools*, by Various Authors, contains articles of varying interest on ten of the leading institutions, those on Eton (by H. C. Max-

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well Lyte) and on Rugby (by his Honor Judge Hughes, Q.C.) being of especial interest. The *Life of Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B., etc.*, by George Birkbeck Hill, contains much of interest concerning education in the first quarter of the present century. *Thomas and Matthew Arnold, and their Influence on Education*, by Sir Joshua G. Fitch, LL.D., is perhaps the most thoughtful and complete work dealing with the schools as institutions. For the sports of the public schools, the *Badminton Library* is, of course, the authority. Besides these books, the periodicals are rich in articles, which may be found by consulting *Poolé's Index to Periodical Literature*. The illustrations are from photographs by Richard W. Thomas and the firm of Hills & Saunders.

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