

**ECHOES FROM THE
GUN OF 1861. A BOOK
FOR BOYS, NO. 3**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649361922

Echoes from the gun of 1861. A book for boys, No. 3 by Various

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VARIOUS

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FOR BOYS, NO. 3**



SUNSET STORIES.

ECHOES FROM THE GUN OF 1861.

A BOOK FOR BOYS.

No. 3.

"In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bosom of life,
Be not like dumb driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!"

LORING, Publisher,
219 WASHINGTON STREET,
BOSTON.
1864.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1884, by

A. K. LORING,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

Stereotyped and Printed by
J. E. FARWELL AND COMPANY,
37 Congress Street Boston.

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INTRODUCTION.

THERE was no "hull" in the sunset circle of listeners when grandma finished reading "Sketches of Doll Life." What the young critics said will not interest boys, probably, with the exception of Harry's and Walter's comments, which I give you.

"They are very well for babies' and little girls' stories, I dare say," said Harry, patronizingly; "but you can't expect boys to care about dolls, though I like the part about Frank well enough."

"I did n't listen much," said Walter. "I hope it is our turn now, grandma, and that you'll give us a jolly soldier story, all about camp life, and fighting, and scrapes, and everything."

"Yes," said grandma, taking out quite a formidable-looking manuscript; "I have written your soldier story, not altogether about soldiers in camp and on the battle-field, but in part about younger soldiers, of whom there are now so many thousands at home, drilling in school, and in play, and at all times and

seasons, in fact, when they are awake, for future active service. They fight battles, too; are defeated and disheartened, or are victorious and encouraged. These drills and battles are not known over the land by bulletins and through newspapers; but they are many of them as severe and as grand battles as ever were fought; their reward is greater than the hero's glory, and their record is on high."

"I know what grandma means," whispered Harry to Walter, — "she means the battles we fight with ourselves; but I don't see how we are drilling all the time, or who our drill-master is."

"Hush!" said Walter; "the story will explain that, perhaps."

"As a rule," continued grandma, "I have not undertaken to give localities or dates, — though both are sometimes mentioned, — because the purpose of my story did not require it, and because you can get facts of that sort much better from those who have been eye-witnesses and participators in what they relate.

"After reading the vividly portrayed realities of such grand books as Hosmer's 'Color Guard,' or Carleton's 'Days and Nights on the Battle-Field,' I could hardly venture to sit down in my quiet room,