
A history of Eton college. 1440-1875

Lyte Henry Churchill

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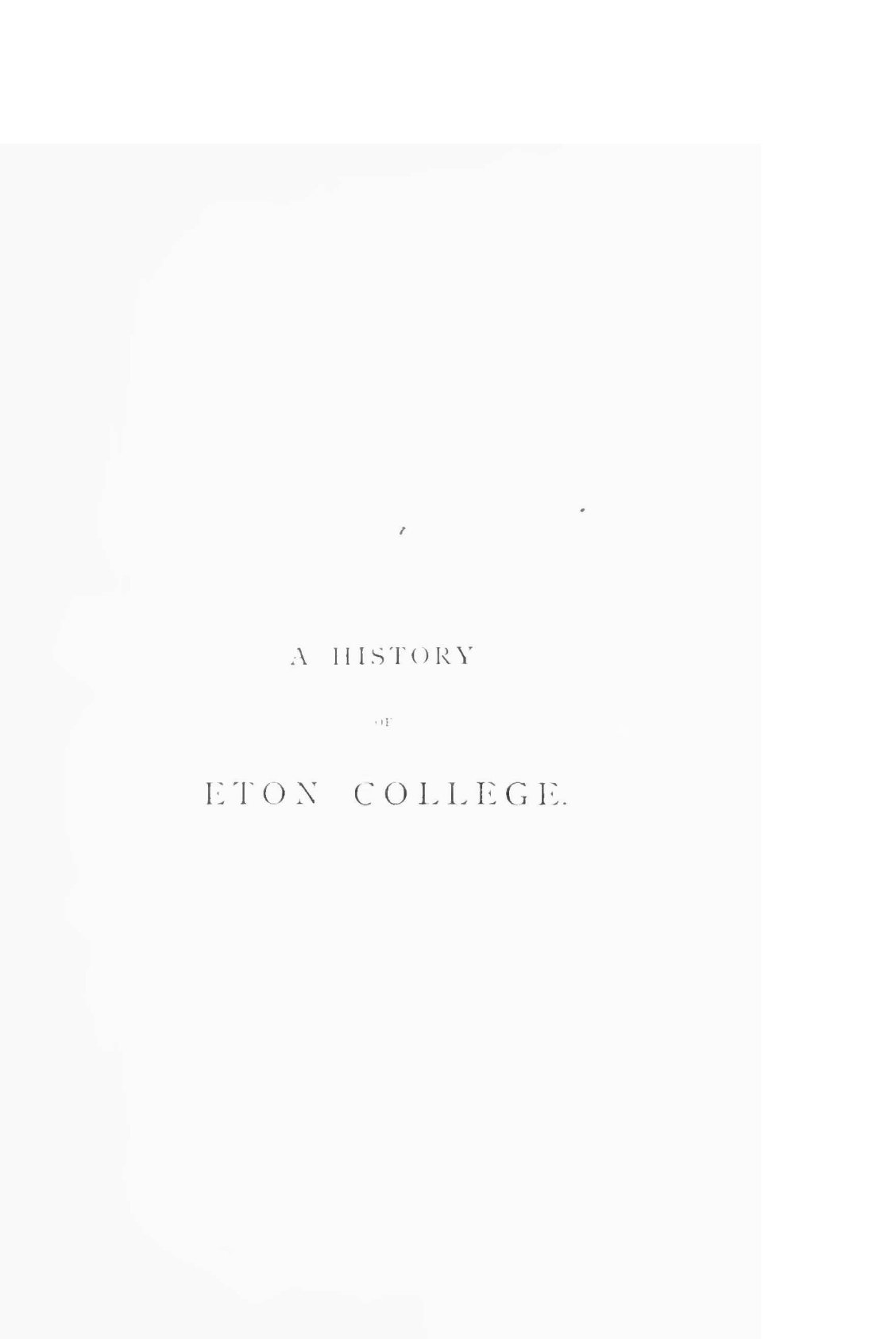
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A HISTORY
OF
ETON COLLEGE.





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A HISTORY

OF

ETON COLLEGE.

1440—1875.

BY

H. C. MAXWELL LYTE, M.A.



From a drawing

by Mr. Turner, R.S.A.

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PREFACE

AN historical work on Eton admits of several modes of treatment, and commands the interest of persons of various tastes and habits of thought. According to some, it should be a biographical register of successive Provosts, Fellows, and Masters, who have guided a great national institution through more than four centuries of almost unbroken prosperity; according to others, it should trace the continuous existence of an ecclesiastical corporation, richly endowed and boasting a picturesque pile of mediæval buildings; some think that it should follow the careers of a vast number of England's greatest men from the cradle to the grave; others that it should be a record of educational progress, a treatise on grammars and exercises; while yet another class would wish to see in it a faithful picture of school life at different periods, with long accounts of popular games and boyish adventures.

Much has already been written about Eton from one or other of these points of view, but no compre-

hensive work on the subject has yet appeared. My object has been to produce a History of Eton in which matters of biography and architecture, studies and pastimes, old customs and single incidents, should each receive their due share of notice, and fall into their proper places, side by side, in chronological order. Yet it is impossible, within reasonable limits, to be at the same time comprehensive and exhaustive; and I have not dwelt on the lives of any persons, however remarkable, save in so far as was necessary to illustrate their connection with the College. Nor have I attempted to supplement or supersede such excellent monographs as Mr. Blake-Humfrey's "Eton Boating Book," or Mr. Stapylton's "Eton School Lists."

A great portion of my book is based on the authority of original manuscripts hitherto unnoticed by any writer. The notes on the early history of Eton in such works as Sir E. S. Creasy's "Eminent Etonians," and the "Annals of Windsor," are almost exclusively derived from the collections of Roger Huggett, a Conductor (or Chaplain) at Eton in the middle of the eighteenth century, who bequeathed to the British Museum the transcripts and extracts he had made from the College records. Yet Huggett never saw some of the most important documents relating to the building of the Church, and he made no use whatever of the invaluable series of Audit