
Recollections of Eton

Johnstone Charles Frederick

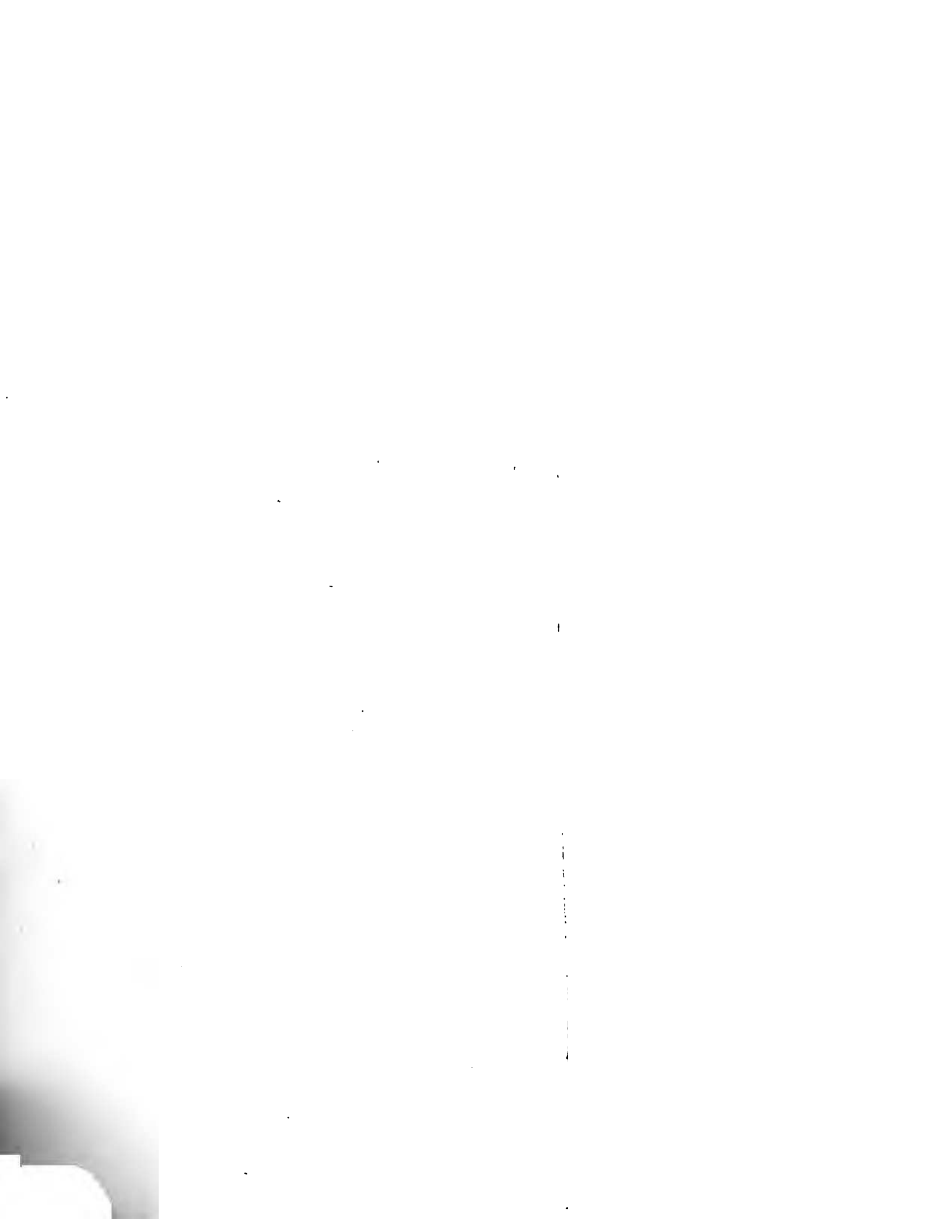
Title: Recollections of Eton

Author: Johnstone Charles Frederick

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IN THE PLAYING FIELDS.

Frontispiece.

RECOLLECTIONS OF ETON.

BY AN ETONIAN.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY SYDNEY P. HALL.

“Be it a weakness it deserves some praise,
We love the play-place of our early days.”



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CONTENTS.

PART I.

THE LOWER BOY.

CHAP.	
I.	HOME LESSONS
II.	INTRODUCTIONS—MY DAME AND MY TUTOR
III.	I AM PLACED—MESSES
IV.	FIRST SCHOOL—FIRST FRIENDS
V.	FAGGING—THE WALL—PUPIL ROOM
VI.	AQUATICS
VII.	FOURTH OF JUNE
VIII.	MISCELLANEOUS
IX.	A RACE
X.	THE FOOTBALL HALF
XI.	THE FAIR
XII.	A FLOGGING
XIII.	THE EASTER HALF AND ITS AMUSEMENTS
XIV.	ATHLETICS

PART II.

THE UPPER BOY.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. CHANGES	169
II. COLLEGERS AND OPPIDANS	181
III. SPEECHES AND CONSTITUTIONALS	197
IV. HOME BOUND	203
V. A FROST	217
VI. THE BOATING SEASON BEGINS	234
VII. SUMMER—THE RIVER	250
VIII. THE DERBY AND ASCOT	267
IX. THE FOURTH OF JUNE	285
X. AT HENLEY	300
XI. ETON <i>v</i> HARROW	313
XII. SWEEPSTAKES	333
XIII. OPPIDAN DINNER	346
XIV. FAREWELL	359

RECOLLECTIONS OF ETON.

CHAPTER I.

HOME LESSONS.

"He gives the local bias all its sway,
Resolves that where he played his sons shall play,
And destines their bright genius to be shown
Just in the place where he displayed his own."

Cooper.

"WELL, you will find a good many strange things at Eton," said my father. "Won't he, Jim?"

Jim was my elder brother, who had already been at Eton and had left it, and who was therefore naturally looked up to as a high authority on school life.

"There'll be a good many new things; eh, Jim?" said my father.

"Why, yes; of course there will, that's natural. But it's a great thing to take everything quietly, and not be astonished at anything."

"You pass as a wise man then, and you get rid of a great many questions which might be puzzling."

"And then there's another thing, Charley," continued Jim. "Don't be fool enough to think yourself insulted when they ask your name. It's the same with every-

body when they first go, and you'll be no worse off than any one else."

"That's true," said my father. "But you mustn't give the name we call you here. Home names are not recognized, and Norton is the only answer for you. And——"

"But I know all that," said I, interrupting him. "You learn that much at a private school." For I was indignant at the supposition that I did not know even that.

"Well, I suppose you do ; but still it does no harm repeating it ; does it, Jim ?"

"No, it certainly does no harm," answered Jim. "But I suppose, as Charley says, he learns all that sort of thing at a private school. I know I did when I was at one ; and after all, you find that everybody who has been at school anywhere gets on well enough at Eton."

"I believe they do ; if they did not, you would never find that everybody looks back with such pleasure as they do to their old Eton days. For my part, I am sure the happiest part of my life was passed there ; and there is no reason to expect that Charley will find it otherwise, if he only keeps out of scrapes, avoids debt, and is sufficiently industrious to keep in favour with his tutor. But it is getting late, and as we have something before us to-morrow, I think we had all better be off to bed."