

Seymour proposes Mertoun as Captain—p. 51.

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THE  
FIRST OF JUNE;

OR,  
  
SCHOOLBOY RIVALRY.

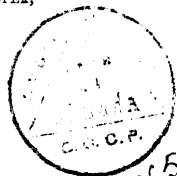
BY THE  
  
REV. H. C. ADAMS, M.A.,  
LATE FELLOW OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD;  
EDITOR OF "THE CHERRY-STONES,"  
AND AUTHOR OF "SIVAN THE SLEEPER,"  
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TO  
M. MARGARET

AND  
GEORGE H. HOLDEN

This little Volume is Inscribed

BY  
THEIR AFFECTIONATE UNCLE

H. C. A

## PREFACE.

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CONTINUATIONS are generally more or less failures; almost always, when the original has been popular and successful. I shall be neither surprised nor disheartened if the present tale should form no exception to this rule. My motives for writing it are these:—

First, I regard “The Cherry-stones” as being, for a boys’ story, too short. It does not afford sufficient space for the development of the various characters it contains; and the interest excited by them is lost, almost as soon as it is awakened.

Again, it deals with one only of the two great temptations that beset the time of life, at which the chief actors in it are supposed to be. Previously to the awakening of the passions of approaching manhood, boys are tried for the most part by two moral dangers,—that arising from the inclination to conceal acts of disobedience by equivocation and falsehood; and that which springs from the bitter-