

be vitally and surely interested in a true picture of "average" boyhood; but the author does believe that boy readers are bright and keen enough to derive greater pleasure from the account of the struggles of a boy of only average qualities against odds and obstacles of reasonable number and difficulty, than from the narrative of the "adventures" of a boy of impossible virtues, triumphing over perils which, both in character and number, could in no human probability have surrounded one boy in ten-thousand.

The author does not imagine that he has given in the following pages a true picture of the vicissitudes of an average boyhood; but he hopes that the adventures of "The Young Newspaper Scout," are fairly representative of the character, perils and triumphs of the "average of exceptions" which lift the lives of frontier boys from the lines of uniform common place in which the careers of most boys are spent. He is at least confident that his readers will not find a single "situation" in the following story which is not justified by reasonable probability. More than that, he believes that the same justification of probability will apply to the story as a whole, both in the environments and situations with which Rodney found himself surrounded and in the action which they called forth.

Geneva, Ill.

F. C.