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# Famous Writers of Books for Boys

"He does not write from heresy but from sight and experience; it is the scenes that he has lived and labored amidst that he describes." These words, which Carlyle applied to Robert Burns in his famous essay, may with equal force be applied to those authors who have occupied pre-eminent place as writers for boys. It is the reason why G. A. Henty and Captain Brereton are to-day the leading and most popular authors of boys' books.

**A**S war correspondent Henty learned to know war in all its grimness and all its fierce joy. Before he settled down to the serious business of his life, he had endured the hardships of the Crimea, and undergone perils innumerable in Spain, in the Franco-Prussian war, in India, and in Africa, and knew well what it meant to stand face to face with death. Thus, in his many stories of military history, he wrote from full personal experience, not from mere book-knowledge of the art of war. As a result his popularity increased with every story he wrote, and at the present time it is greater than ever.



Mr. G. A. Henty

**I**t is of peculiar interest to know that Captain Brereton, a soldier and a son of a soldier, who, as a writer of stories of military history, carries on the tradition of Henty, is a close kinsman of that king of boys' writers. Like Henty, he has been much to the wars. He knows what it means to be under fire, to undergo hunger and cold and physical exhaustion in long solitary treks across the veldt, to fall into the hands of the enemy, to succour the wounded after battle, and bury dead comrades where they fell. Captain Brereton knows intimately the actualities of war, just as Henty did. He has been far and seen much, from Burmah to the South African veldt and the deserts of Egypt.



Captain Brereton

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**T**RAINED to the sea as an officer in the navy, Mr. Harry Collingwood, in the course of his varied career as sailor and as civil engineer to the admiralty, has been called upon to travel into all parts of the earth and prospect its most out-of-the-way corners. He has seen old ocean in every phase of storm and calm, and from personal experience can say what it feels like to swim for life from a hungry pursuing shark, or to fall from aloft on a dark and stormy night, and, after battling with the waves till strength is well-nigh spent, be picked up more dead than alive.



Mr. Harry Collingwood

**T**HE gifted young author of that most fascinating book of travel, "In Search of El Dorado," Alexander Macdonald, has journeyed much on the confines of the world. He has pierced farther into the burning desert of Australia, the mysterious Never-Never land, than any before him. He has wrestled with the icy crags of the Rocky Mountains, and suffered the privations of the arctic winter, has taken his life in his hand as an explorer among the savages of New Guinea and the central forests of Africa. His native abilities as a story-teller have thus ample material to draw upon. And the first draught upon his stores is given to boys in his new book, "The Lost Explorers."

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