

PERCY WYNN

FRANKIS J.FINN S. J.

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THE BEST SINCE TOM BROWN'S SCHOOL DAYS!

PRESS NOTICES.

"We have at last found a tale which we can recommend to every college lad, a tale worthy in a measure to be put side by side with that classic which has charmed so many generations of school-boys, 'Tom Brown at Rugby.' Fresh and varied in incident, full of a spirit of sturdy purity and manliness, without a bit of sermonizing, yet with a moral in every chapter, and a moral drawn from the teaching and the practices of our holy religion, 'Percy Wynn' is a tale that every boy should read and which he will be very much the better for having read. It gives us real pleasure to call the attention of those in charge of schools and who will soon be choosing premiums for those under their charge to 'Percy Wynn,'"—The Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

"Here is a genuine American boy's book worth two dozen and a half slovenly translations from the French. Every chapter of the book will interest boys. . . . Some of them will laugh at Percy at first, but as they read on they will appreciate him and find that he combines all the qualities they admire. Boys' verdicts are generally fair and just, and as to their verdict on this book there can be no question."—New York Catholic News.

"This little volume is a model combination of the religious and the fine literary elements. We can not name a book that so pleasantly conveys high lessons of candor, honor, docility, generosity, and manly piety. And this spirit goes on so unobtrusively through twenty-four chapters of thrilling interest that the reader perceives it only in the noble impulses and pure aspirations that spring up within his own heart while he is borne along by the story. We feel strongly tempted to give an analysis of the work. But we could not do it justice in our space, and, moreover, for the reader's delight, we prefer to leave the spell unbroken."—Michigan Catholic.

"This is a most interesting story of boy life at boarding-school, It is well told and evinces much dramatic power. The characters are drawn from life, and the author displays rare knowledge of the 'true inwardness' of boy life at college. Every college and school in the land should include 'PERCY WYNN' in its list of premiums."—Sunday Democrat.

"Who of us has read 'PERCY WYNN' without interest? But whether it was the simple plot, or the excellent style of the writer, or because old St. Mary's is the scenes of the events that attracted our attention and interest, it is hard to say. . . . We would advise all the old students to get the book and read it, founded as it is, upon some of the old traditions of St. Mary's and written by a former Prefect of the large yard."—The Dial, St. Mary's, Kansas.

"Catholic American parents occasionally feel a little natura. vesation when they discover that Tom Brown, an English Protestant, is among the heroes populating their children's world of imagination, and wonder why the youngsters cannot see that the model by which they endeavor to shape themselves should be of their own race and their own faith; but really, are the boys to blame? Any parent earnestly desiring to substitute American Catholics for the Rugberians drawn by Mr. Tom Hughes should himself introduce his boys to Tom Playfair, the hero of 'PERCY WYNN,' by Rev. Francis J. Finn, S.J. If 'PERCY WYNN' do not supersede 'Tom Brown' in the affections of Catholic boys, it will be the fault of their parents in not presenting the book to them."—Boston Pilot.

"We hope that the Rev. Father will continue to use his pen in this good cause of supplying the young boys with good and wholesome reading matter."—Our Western Cross.

"... It is full of exciting incidents in school-boy life; the story is very well told, and the moral lessons judiciously subordinated to the development of the plot. Some points now and then in the mutual relations of the boys and their masters may strike us somewhat improbable; but this means chiefly what we are not used to, and we must remember that this tale regards American boys. We intend to let our readers hear more of PERCY WYNN, and how Tom Playfair, his comrade, made a boy of him."—Irish Monthly, Dublin.

"The story is of remarkable interest from beginning to end, even to those who are no longer boys. It it told with great force and energy, and at the same time in beautiful language. In fact, it often approaches the poetical."—Georgetown College Journal.

"This is another of Benziger's well-made books. It is a bright, wholesome story for boys. It is American, and of to-day. We cheerfully commend it to our boys, as an offering for their amusement and instruction, instead of the many wretched stories so widely distributed among our youth."—The Rosary.

"Intended for both boy and girl readers, this story has special excellences that recommend it also to others, 'children of a larger growth.'... Its high merits bespeak for it a very wide circulation."—Catholic Standard.

"An excellent story of boy life at school, and a very suitable book for present or prize. It is seldom we have seen so good a story in a Catholic form, and it enjoys the great virtue of not being foolishly pious."—The Lyceum, Dublin.

. . . It is a matter of wonder with what interest the college life is invested by the author. The book teems with graphic decriptions; the first fishing tour, the football-game, the meeting with the village rowdies. Percy's desperate resolve, his rescuing others and being rescued, his running the gauntlet, his friendship with Frank, the son of an infidel father, and so on, are such life-like and interesting descriptions, that they might be considered models in their kind. . . . We do not hesitate to state that in our opinion the work is indeed a masterpiece; it is excellent and very instructive reading for boys and students, to whom it will do more good than a host of novels and story-books. It is at the same time so attractively written that no one can take it up without reading it to the end. The book deserves to be put on every prize-list and should find a place in every school library. Would to God there were many boys such as Percy Wynn and Tom Playfair."-Bombay Catholic Examiner.

"To write good stories for Catholic children is a praise-worthy occupation. It is useless to warn them against the evils of bad reading unless we supply them with good literature. This work is exactly what they want, and the author has produced many more as good. The leading character is Percy Wynn, a boy of 13, just entering college life. No boy could help loving him. The author has done an excellent piece of work in proposing for the imitation of his young readers a character so pious, charitable, sympathetic, innocent, and noble as Percy's. No boy can read it and not feel an inclination to be like him."

—Catholic Record.

"The book is just what is wanted for the young, girls or boys. It holds up for admiration noble qualities of heart and soul, whether depicted in the gentle Percy or in his more manly companions, and makes us despise what is mean and unworthy. The type and paper are good; the binding, in blue and gold, is pretty."—The Mount, Wheeling.

"This is a story that will be read with great interest by all young people. It teaches many salutary lessons. The effects of being in good as well as in bad company are clearly set forth; and boys at academies and colleges can learn from this story that rowdyism or disobedience are to be scrupulously avoided. The book will give parents an opportunity for encouraging a taste for healthy fiction in their children..."—Pittsburgh Catholic.

"A captivating book, and gives an opportunity to replace some of the trashy and harmful fiction of the day with fiction that is healthy."—Kansas Catholic.

"Percy Wynn is a rather girlish lad at the beginning of the story, but he has the right sort of stuff in him and consequently works through all right. His example and that of his friend Tom exercise an influence for good upon the other lads, especially upon Buck and Dick, two incipient hoodlums, and they become good boys."—Photo-American Review.

"... We have long wished to see done for 'Tom Brown's School-Days' what Father Anderdon did for Defoe's story. Father Finn's 'PERCY WYNN' has succeeded in doing this so well that the book is already in its second edition. He writes excellently and shows a deep intimate acquaintance with boys' characters. His book is always entertaining and not seldom pathetic. It pleased us so much that we read it through from cover to cover at a single sitting, notwithstanding that our school-days belong to ancient history and that our young friends class us among 'old boys.' What especially charmed us in this volume was its manliness. We are not introduced among a set of prigs or a herd of milksops. Father Finn's boys are manly young fellows who can, when lawful, hit out straight from the shoulder, and can race or skate, handle an oar or kick a football with any lad of their own age or size. But they are not all muscularity; they have hearts to feel, heads to understand, and souls to save. They have, too, their failings and defects, and if they are not perfect at least they are human ... "-Caxton Review, London.

"This is a story that will be read with great interest by our young people. It is entertaining, interesting, moral, and instructive. It belongs to a class of literature of which we have too little and for which we have great need. Our young people would read fewer bad books if they had, more good ones of this class. It should be in every Catholic family, and in the library of every Catholic society."—Iowa Catholic.

"This is an excellent story of Catholic college life, and should be as popular among our young folks as are the famous 'Tom Brown' series.... The author understands boy life nature thoroughly, and his characters are true to life.... Percy is anoble little fellow, and the process by which his 'chums' at St. Maure's 'make a boy of him' will delight all young readers."—Ave Maria.

"The story is one of hearty and wholesome life in a Catholic boarding-school. Nowadays, when too many of our premium books are either badly written lives of the saints or treatises intended for the maturest minds, it is a positive relief to come upon a breezy book like this. No boy, inside or outside of college, can fail to be pleased with it and to rise from its perusal a better boy. . . . The novelty of the plot appeals to every reader. Percy is a handsome little fellow, full of the most graceful and attractive ways and of the profoundest piety, but bearing too many proofs of his rearing amid a family of sisters. Several youngsters at the college, not a whit less virtuous, undertake, as they express it, 'to make a boy of him'; and it is through a series of delightful adventures that Percy gradually developes into a strong, vigorous lad, better and more graceful than ever, but in every sense a genuine boy. . . . We hope this volume will be but the first of a series from the Reverend author, as he has entered a field previously untrodden."-San Francisco Monitor.

"This is by far the best tale of school-days we have read since the old times when 'Tom Brown' delighted us, and the 'Eric' and other charming stories of Archdeacon Farrar wove our boyhood's dreams. We are older now than then, our school-days are a fading memory, yet so enthralled were we by 'PERCY WYNN' that we stayed up a whole night to read it through. Were we rich enough, we should present a copy of it to every boy in the land... We need good boy's stories and of such emphatically is Father Finn's. Thank you a thousand times, Father Finn, for ourselves, because for three delightful hours we were happy boys again, weaving boyish dreams; but thank you still more and God bless you because you have written a book that will be a blessing to every boy who will read it."—Colorado Catholic.

"... Its attractive appearance will make it a desirable premium book."—Catholic Union and Times.

"It is full of interesting matter, and the attention of the reader is held captive to the end. We do not recollect reading any other book with such avidity approaching the eager delight with which we devoured the pages of 'Tom Brown's School Days' when we were boys. The characters are cleverly sketched, and the interest of the story never flags. It is a capital book for boys, and we have no hesitation in recommending it. Parents, who have acquainted themselves with the contents, will be but too happy to place such a book in the hands of their boys, whose future welfare has to be secured."—Catholic Watchman, Madras.

"... The reappearance of this delightful tale in improved form is a cause for congratulation to all those interested in such reading as will elevate and improve our Catholic youth, while it enthralls their imaginations. We cannot have too many such stories as "PERCY WYNN,' and we are sure all our young readers who are interested in 'Harry Dee' will not neglect the opportunity now offered to them of more reading of the same absorbing character."—Catholic Home, Chicago.

"The first edition of this charming book for Catholic boys was hailed as the dawning of a new era in such literature and the appearance of the second edition so soon afterwards shows the success with which it has deservedly met. Its great novelty consists not only in its plot, which is certainly unique, but in its profound knowledge of boyish dispositions, and the skilful way in which a superb piece of fiction has been employed to chasten and ennoble the lives of its young readers. We know one boardingcollege where the book was read to the students in the refectory and was universally pronounced the best of its kind. Such praise from boys proves how the author is in touch with young life. It is high time that we were able to place in the hands of our boys many a book like this, instead of having recourse either to works by non-Catholics or to the volumes of purely æscetic literature. Father Finn has a great work before him, and we wish him God speed."-Catholic Sentinel, Portland.

**... The author has given us what has been desired so long that we had despaired of it—a real book for boys about genuine boys, by a Catholic who thoroughly understands boys; and we are more than glad that he promises a sequel to 'PERCY WYNN.' Nor will we be satisfied with one more. There should be a series as unending as those of Optic. Thus much we have said of a second edition, contrary to our custom, on account of the exceptional merit of the story."—The Catholic World.

"All Mr. Finn's stories are good; what is more they are virile, sensible, full of the life that is actually seen within the walls of a college when brainy young men are trained there. We recommend 'PERCY WYNN' to our young friends."—Western Watchman.

"... Is an novel well worth perusing. It is intended for boys and girls and the author sketches in a masterly way the different characters of boys.... This is the very book to give for a prize and the forthcoming Catholic school exhibitions."—Morning Star.

"An entertaining and instructive story for both boys and girls, is told here. The publisher has clad the work in a most tasteful cover of blue and gold. An elegant present for the young."—Catholic Telegraph.

"Whoever has read 'Tom Brown at Rugby,' the most popular book and classic for boys that has appeared in the last half century, will see at once that Tom Playfair and Percy are the Catholic models of Tom Brown and Arthur. It is a capital story of boy-life at a Jesuit boarding-school, by one who has evidently been all through it himself. Without any sermonizing, moral lessons of the highest interest, drawn from the various incidents of school life, are inculcated, almost without the reader being aware of it, so naturally do they flow from the course of the story. No boy can begin to read the book without finishing it, and no one can read it without being improved by it. It will certainly become a favorite premium book in our schools and deserves it."—American Catholic Quarterly Review.

""PERCY WYNN' is not so much a story, as a picture of schoolboy life, sketched by one who is well acquainted with boys, and knows how to write about them in a very clever and amusing manner. Although it is intended for school-boys, the adult reader will find far more pleasure in its perusal than in many a more pretentious work of fiction, and we may predict with certainty that any one who begins it will read it to the end.

"The scene of 'PERCY WYNN' is in America, but it will not on that account be the less welcome to the English school-boy. It is seldom we have met with a book of the kind so admirable in its tone, so attractive in its style, and which can be so unreservedly recommended as a gift-book for boys."—The Month, London.

"... A good premium volume for our Catholic Academies."—
Catholic Mirror.

PERCY WYNN;

OR,

MAKING A BOY OF HIM.

FRANCIS J. FINN, S. J., 1859-1978

(NEENAH.)

Muthor of "Tom Playfair," "Ada Merton," "Charlie's Victory,"
"Harry Dee; or, The Mystery of Tower Hill Mansion."

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