

.... As to historic knowledge and antiquarian research, Samuel Adams Drake's *Around the Hub ; a Boy's Book about Boston* (Boston: Roberts Brothers), cannot fail to be all that could be desired. Mr. Drake's authority on points of this nature is too high to be questioned, and we are glad that he has put it to use in juvenile literature. He has taken with enthusiasm the position of his young readers, and addresses them sometimes in a style which would seem strange to the solemn Muse of history. As to the vexed question, who commanded at Bunker Hill, it is settled by him in what may be, after all, the best solution—that Putnam commanded, not so much by rank or superior military appointment, as by the commanding genius of an old hero on a field where patriotism was everything, and organization nearly nothing. It has often been remarked that Boston is the most English of all our cities. To this must be added that nowhere else has so much of the old anti-British feeling survived. This book is full of it, due, perhaps, in this case not to the animosity of the author, but to his presumption that it is only to some such tune as this that patriotism will move in the heart of a Boston boy. Mr. Drake is more concerned for the boys' patriotism than for their religion. During all that early period when the unmixed Puritan influence dominated the colony, he walks about with his chin in the air. If the foundation of ethics in the training of youth has anything to do with historical examples, such writers as these deserve to be condemned to drink hemlock for corrupting the youth. Boston has endured many trials, and come out strong; but if her youth are to be trained to "smell a rat" in every colonial meeting house, and to interject buts and lofty criticism into three-quarters of the colonial history, these boys will, by and by, be nothing better than "poor little crooked things that ask questions," when they should be men who fear God and can be trusted to keep his commandments. If these boys turn out at the age of forty years with good stuff in them that works well in the path of righteousness and in the responsibilities of civil society, that will be a thing more to be boasted of than that they were well up in a nineteenth or twentieth century ability to pass small criticisms on a heroic generation, for not having been more ahead of their times than they were.