

The Rev. C. H. Heath's† reminiscences of Abbott.
The City of London School, pp. 268–269

“Of Abbott no pupil of his could ever say enough in praise. ‘The Doctor’ was perhaps something of a terror to boys in the lower parts of the School, but you no sooner came under his influence in the class-room and survived the tremendous energy of his stimulus than you became a hero-worshipper for life. He was perhaps the greatest teacher there ever was, the most inspiring counselor, and the very kindest and most understanding of friends. Considering the shortcomings of the elder part of his staff, the success of the School in his time at the Universities are almost incredible. An example of his method was his annual *viva-voce* examination of each individual class (below the Latin Class, I think) during a week in December — when the Sixth were reading six books of the *Iliad* in their homes! All his lessons were memorable, but he was perhaps at his greatest in his Greek Testament, his Thucydides, and his English Literature lessons.”

† C. H. Heath attended the City of London School, 1874–1884 and was Captain of the School, 1883–1884. Like Abbott, he went from CLS to St. John’s College, Cambridge. He was a master at King Edward’s, Birmingham.