

**TWO TOWNS-ONE  
CITY:  
PARIS-LONDON**

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Two towns-one city: Paris-London by John F. Macdonald

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**JOHN F. MACDONALD**

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**TWO TOWNS—ONE CITY**

# TWO TOWNS—ONE CITY

## PARIS—LONDON

BY

JOHN F. MACDONALD

AUTHOR OF

"PARIS OF THE PARISIANS"



"Les maisons font la ville, mais les citoyens font la cité."

J. J. ROUSSEAU.

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## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION . . . . .	7
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### PART I

#### THE "ENTENTE"—BEFORE THE WAR

I. PARIS AND KING EDWARD THE SEVENTH . . . . .	19
II. PARIS AND "SON ALTESSE ROYALE" . . . . .	42
III. PARIS AND LONDON SCHOOL CHILDREN: THE FIVE HUNDRED . . . . .	48
IV. LONDON CHILDREN AT HOME . . . . .	68
V. LONDONERS IN LONDON: AFTER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS . . . . .	74
VI. LONDON IN NOVEMBER: GUY FAWKSING . . . . .	80
VII. A LONDONER'S REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS: ITS COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES . . . . .	91

### PART II

#### LONDON IN WAR TIME

I. THE MONTH OF AUGUST. THE LONDON CHILDREN AND THE NEW DEMOCRACY. THE GENERAL PRECEPT: "KEEP CALM" . . . . .	101
II. THE FIRST MONTH. IN CLUBLAND. AFTERNOON WOOL-WORKERS. THE AIRSHIP. THE MORA- TORIUM . . . . .	118
III. THE SECOND MONTH OF THE WAR. MINISTERS IN STATE. PADDINGTON PREPARES. THE MILITARY BAND AS RECRUITER. TERRI- TORIALS AND CHRISTIANS . . . . .	129



	PAGE
IV. THE SECOND MONTH OF THE WAR. THE FORTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEDAN. SMALLER STAGELAND. SOHO IN THE EIGHTH WEEK .	149
V. THIRD MONTH OF THE WAR. BELGIAN REFUGEES. THE VANDENBERGERS. ALEXANDRA PALACE. TRAFALGAR DAY . . . . .	161
VI. THE FOURTH AND FIFTH MONTHS. DARKNESS IN LONDON. CABBAGES AND RABBITS	172
VII. THE FOURTH AND FIFTH MONTHS, NO. 2. THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW. THE CATHEDRAL. THE CHURCHES . . . . .	180

## PART III

## PARIS OF TO-DAY. APRIL-OCTOBER 1915

I. THE CROSSING . . . . .	191
II. NOT A NEW TOWN—THE SAME CITY. THE STREETS. THE SOUP KITCHEN. THE CHURCHES .	202
III. ON THE BOULEVARDS. IN THE LUXEMBOURG GARDENS. ON THE BANKS OF THE SEINE. "ON NE DINE PLUS A PARIS" . . . . .	212
IV. THE HEAT WAVE. THE NEW ENEMY. "SOLDIERS THREE" IN THE LATIN QUARTER . . . . .	222
V. THE WOUNDED IN THE BOIS DE BOULOGNE. VANISHED PREJUDICES AT VERSAILLES. CLERICALISM AND THE REPUBLIC . . . . .	238

## INTRODUCTION

By the general consent of both French and English critics who have judged him, since his death, the author of *Paris of the Parisians* has been given the title of "the interpreter to England of the spirit of France."

This title headed the obituary notice of him in *The Daily News* which announced his death (26th November 1915). The same phrase, or some equivalent sentence, occurs in every one of the many generous appreciations of the special service rendered by this young writer who, in 1900, began to work for the "Entente" at a time when France and England did not understand each other as affectionately as they do to-day, and who continued to make the strengthening of the sentimental and intellectual, as well as the political, friendship between these two peoples his task of love, during the brief but effective literary career broken off in November, 1915.

"He had a great love for France, did much to promote, and consolidate, the good feeling now existing between it and England," wrote the

critic of *The Morning Post* (27th November 1915). "In his *Paris of the Parisians* he was the interpreter and exponent of all that is best in the life of the French capital."

"Let me raise to his memory, not the monument of my personal and poignant regrets, but the lasting emblem of the Entente," said the author of the biographical sketch entitled "An Historian of Paris" which appeared in the Paris edition of *The Daily Mail* of 29th November 1915.

His task was the one, firstly, of binding the friendship between France and England securely by bringing home to both nations their real kinship; secondly, of sweeping away prejudices, and, on both sides, some national conceits, which outer differences of manners, education and conventions aggravate. These blunders helped to encourage in France the delusion that the typical Englishman is unsympathetic, phlegmatic, melancholic and has "the spleen"; and in England they fostered the even more foolish error that the typical Frenchman is deficient in seriousness and morality, that he is flippant, gushing, changeable and led by vanity rather than principles. Against both these delusions John F. Macdonald brought his intimate