

**DUAL LIVES. IN
THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. I**

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Dual lives. In three Volumes. Vol. I by J. C. Chillington

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J. C. CHILLINGTON

**DUAL LIVES. IN
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VOLUMES. VOL. I**

DUAL LIVES.

*DUAL
LIVES.*

BY

J. C. Chillington.

"Our lives are interwoven here below,
frequently, indeed most frequently, with-
out our knowing it. We are in great part
moulded by unconscious interaction."

JOHN TYNDALL, F.R.S.



In Three Volumes.

Vol. I.

London:

Richard Bentley & Son,

Publishers in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen.

1893.

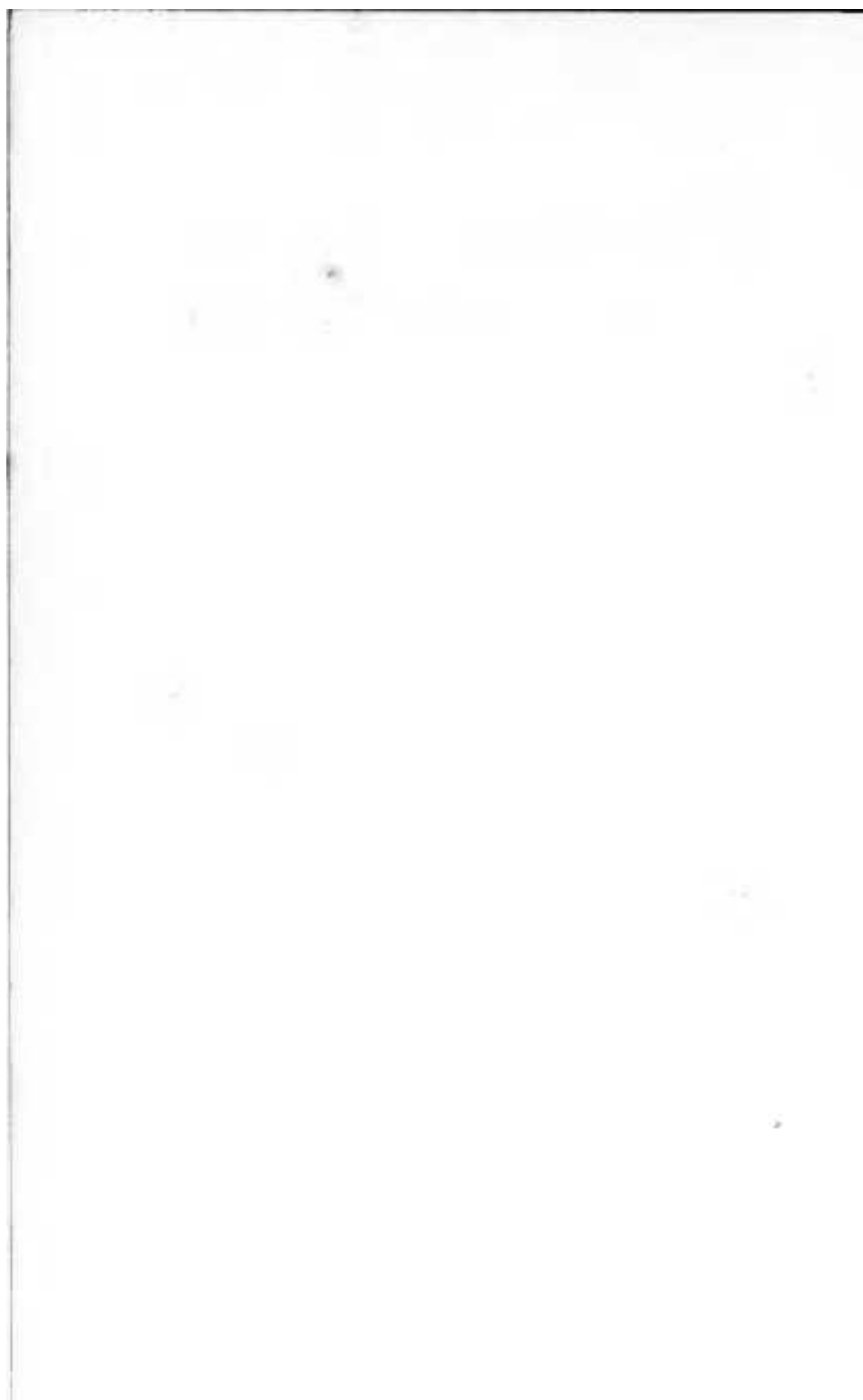
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TO THE READER.

THIS is not a novel with a purpose. If a pervading idea suggests itself, it is not that the characters were created to personify it, but that the writer, in trying to depict imaginary people in imaginary circumstances, stumbled on the thought that all lives are dual, except those that are entirely selfish, and that these sink into the lowest types. The story was not written up to the title, but christened after it had attained maturity.

J. C. C.





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DUAL LIVES.

CHAPTER I.

A DAY OF SURPRISES.

SITUATED in a picturesque hollow, in one of our southern counties, is the little town of Nether Melcombe. The old church stands grey and stern in the centre of the market-place, and round it cluster all the principal habitations—the hall, the bank, the bookseller, the chemist, and the Red Lion inn—where, in the days of which I write, two coaches used to stop twice daily, thus making four points of pleasant excitement in the work-a-day world.