TOILERS IN LONDON; OR, INQUIRIES CONCERNING FEMALE LABOUR IN THE METROPOLIS. BEING THE SECOND PART OF "TEMPTED LONDON."

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Toilers in London; or, Inquiries concerning female labour in the metropolis. Being the second part of "Tempted London." by Various

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Trieste

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Being the Second Part of " Compted Fondon."

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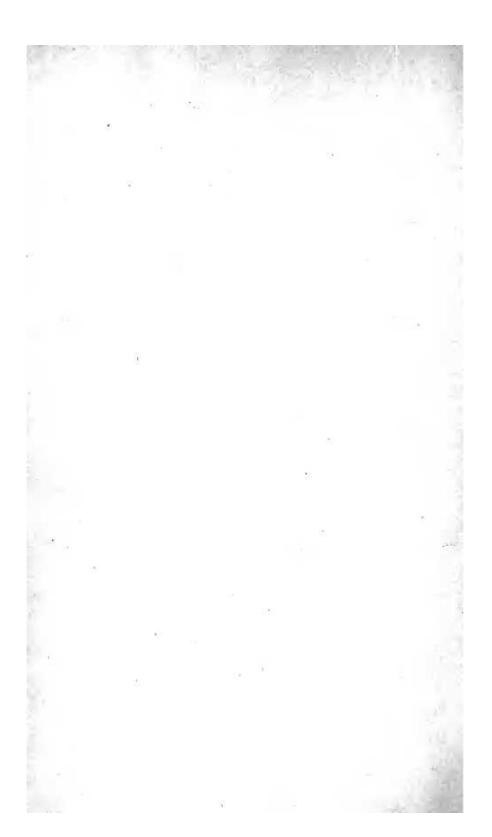
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- "Is it well that while we range with Science, glorying in the Time,
 - City children soak and blacken soul and sense in city slime?
 - There among the gloomy alleys Progress halts on palsied feet,
 - Crime and hunger cast our maidens by the thousand on the street.
 - There the Master scrimps his haggard sempstress of her daily bread,

There a single sordid attic holds the living and the dead !"



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CHAPTER I.

FLOWER-GIRLS.

THE flower-girl is such a familiar sight to Londoners, that few of us realise what the streets of the metropolis would miss if she were banished.

"The world would be a sorry place if it had no flowers in it," an old man said to one of our Commissioners, while he was buying some primroses from a girl at the corner of Oxford Street. It was Primrose Day, and the old man was fastening a small bunch of primroses in his coat when our Commissioner stopped beside the flowergirl's basket.

Fifteen years ago no flower-girls enlivened London thoroughfares. If people wanted flowers they were obliged to find a nursery garden, or to visit a market. At these places flowers were then very expensive; for the people had not at that time learnt to appreciate simple flowers