LONDON: A SHORT HISTORY, WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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London: A Short History, with Maps and Illustrations by M. J. C. Meiklejohn

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M. J. C. MEIKLEJOHN

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Trieste

LONDON a short history

WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS, BY

M.J.C.MEIKLEJOHN, B.A.

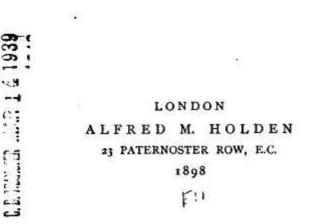
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SOMETIME ADAM DE BROME EXHIBITIONER OF ORIGL COLLEGE OXFORD



DEDICATED BY PERMISSION

TO

THE BIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD REAY, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

CHAIRMAN OF THE

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD

'You must remember that London is not merely the capital of England, Scotland, and Ireland; it is the capital of the British Empire.'

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LORD ROSEBERY, Feb. 1898.

'The streets, wherever one turns, whisper a thousand things of the past: the churches contain the ashes of those great men who fought in the long struggle for liberty at home, and carried the flag of enterprise abroad; the companies tell of trade regulated for the good of the craftsman; the Lord Mayor himself, with his mediaval array and his mediaval officers, is to me a Historic Monument which ought never to be removed.'

SIE WALTER BESANT, Feb. 1898.

...

PREFACE

GEORGE I. was a German, and 'knew not his chief city.' He had small chance of doing so, for he preferred to spend most of his time in Germany, and in London he lived very little.

At the present day some six millions of people spend their lives in London. How many of these know anything of their town ? With the thirty thousand streets of London, no man-not even a cabman, or a mounted police-inspector-can become acquainted; of the ten great cities that are contained in London, one can only get to know at first-hand about two or three; and the vastness of the idea conveyed by the words 'Greater London' almost appals the intelligence. But the history of the 'Town'-and London contains more of the history of England than any other English citymay, and ought to, be learned by her children, great and small. Yet how many of London's older children, taken at random, are conscious of the important geographical and historical facts that lie hidden in the names of Fleet Street, Ludgate Hill, Cheapside, or Tooley Street ? And how many of London's schoolchildren know how London first became a city, or have

PREFACE

any idea of the steps by which she reached her present astonishing position ?

To teach some part of that lesson is the aim of this short book. It does not profess to give any account of modern London, or deal with the million phases of modern London life. If the book conveys to the learner some idea of London's great historical past, the writer's end has been achieved. The writer has to express his very great obligations to the books of Mr. W. J. Loftie and Sir Walter Besant on London and Westminster, and to thank Mr. Edward Stanford for permission to use the map of 'London before the Houses.'

M. J. C. MEIKLEJOHN.

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