

**THE WARSTOCK: A  
TALE OF  
TO-MORROW**

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The Warstock: a tale of to-morrow by Wirt Gerrare

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**WIRT GERRARE**

**THE WARSTOCK: A  
TALE OF  
TO-MORROW**



THE WARSTOCK.

# THE WARSTOCK:

*A TALE OF TO-MORROW.*

*William Oliver Greenier*

BY

WIRT GERRARE, *prosed.*

LONDON.

W. W. GREENIER.

1898.

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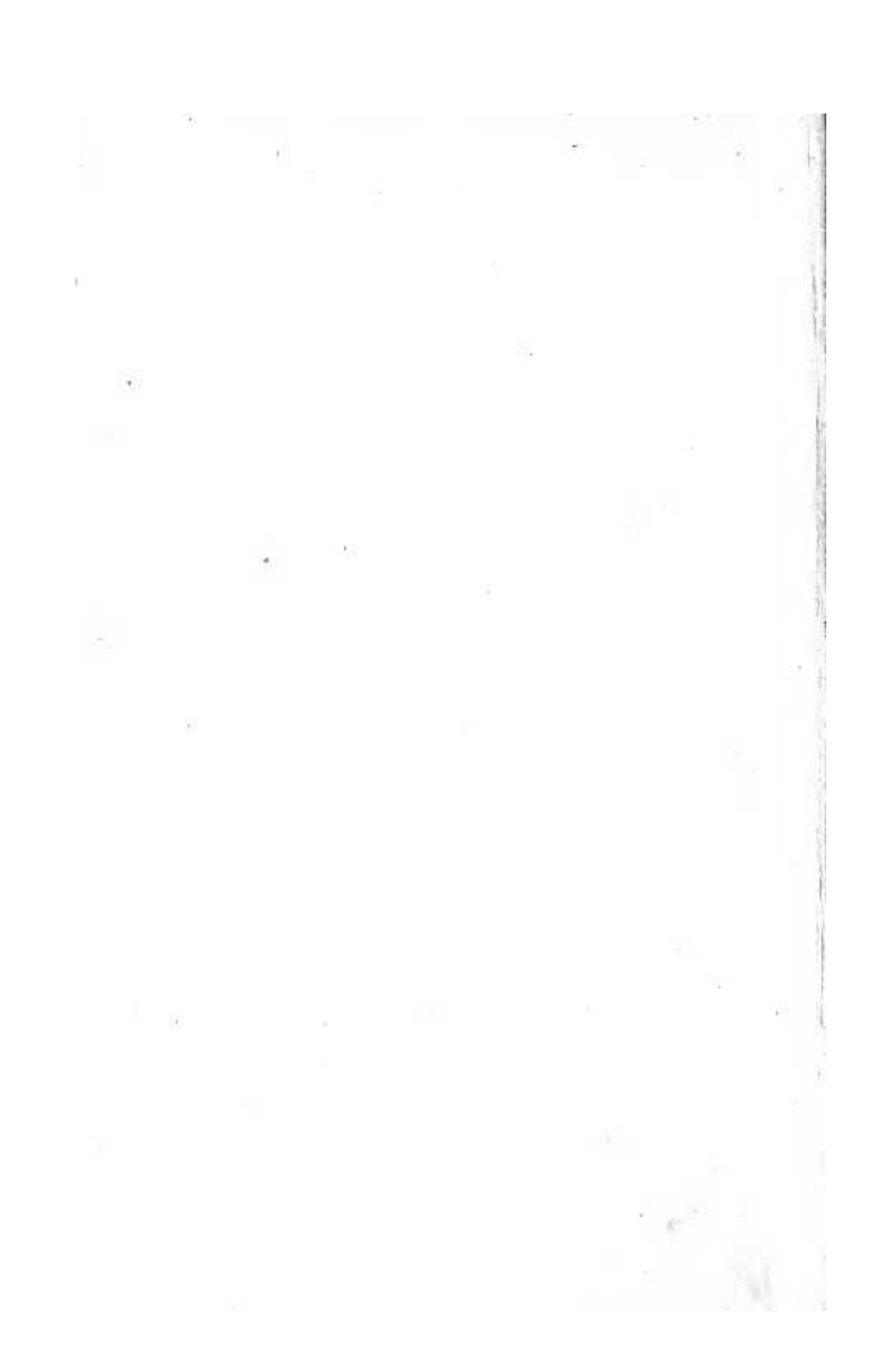
war

**DEDICATION**

TO

J. N., H. G., & J. G. A.

Whose marvellous inventions in Mechanics and  
Chemistry have inspired this story.





## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

IT is no longer the custom of writers of fiction to preface their books with an introduction. Where exceptions to this rule are made, more often than not the prefatory note consists merely of an apology for the story itself—therefore, is useless. In the present instance the writer is of opinion that the subject matter of his story is of that nature which renders some explanation desirable.

In the first place, *THE WARSTOCK* does not pretend to be Literature; it makes no appeal to the emotions, nor is it intended simply to amuse. Its purpose is to set intelligent people thinking; those persons who wish to deny their brains the exercise of this elementary function should read no further. The author wants neither their pence nor their attention, and values their plaudits as little as their sneers.

*THE WARSTOCK* purposes to be a story; a tale of that to-morrow when wireless telegraphy shall be general, and the use of explosives in war has been superseded; hence, it is a work of the imagination, not a controversial treatise on existing conditions. Nevertheless the incidents are based on certain facts, to some of which brief allusion may be made.

The most cursory examination of the history of the rise and progress of British industries will suffice

to show that, in the combination of causes which wrought such a beneficial change in the fortune of Britain, the inventive genius of her manufacturers is the chief factor. The impetus given to her export trade by the creations of Arkwright, Compton, Dalton, Earnshaw, Hargreaves, and others has been maintained by the similar work of more recent inventors—on inventors Britain depends for continued progress.

It is notorious that at the present time no persons, as a class, are worse treated than inventors.

To the author it seems probable that inventors possess the intelligence to secure to themselves the full value of the property they create. This done, they will possess the power to rule which was assumed to be the prerogative of birth but is already actually in the command of the rich. It follows that with the substitution of riches for "noble-birth" as the criterion of worth, the creators of wealth will be regarded as the superiors of its mere possessors. The future, therefore, is for inventors.

At the present time, when inventors can scarcely obtain recognition of common rights, it seems idle to contend that nothing short of absolute supremacy will content them. But there is no good reason why they should ever be satisfied with less; and this is an age when, if progress can be made at all, it can be made quickly.

In a single year upwards of fifty thousand appli-

cations for "patents" are received at the British office alone—an absolute proof that the number of persons interested in inventions is immense. True, the majority of patents issued are for inventions of little value, or none, but of the true creative genius there is sufficient trace to indicate that, given suitable conditions, the higher order of invention would flourish. An examination of patent specifications will prove to what trivialities some great minds descend—even Lord Kelvin improved and patented the spigot of the common water-butt. Yet there are great inventions which have not been patented, and, in all probability, most of these never will be either protected—or made known. The men who discovered them are not novices in the science of invention, nor ignorant of the meaning and value of patent protection. Some earn their living by slight improvements to odds and ends—by some trifling alteration to the staple articles of trade. If present conditions continue, there is little doubt but the secrets of their chief discoveries will die with them.

The conditions which militate against the success of inventions of the highest order may be summarised. To the conditions imposed by legislation with respect to the granting of patents, the chief objection is that there is no real protection, or monopoly, conferred by a "patent"; while, on the other hand, the secret of the discoverer must be made known to all. Next, the time is too short;