

**WOMAN'S RIGHTS AND  
WOMAN'S WRONGS.  
A DYING LEGACY**

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Woman's rights and woman's wrongs. A dying legacy by Le Plus Bas

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BY  
LE PLUS BAS.

LONDON:  
H. J. TRESIDDER, 17, AVE MARIA LANE.

1865.

232. g. 23.

"If you think it right to differ from the times, and to make a stand for any valuable point of morals, do it, however rustic, however antiquated, however pedantic it may appear—do it, not for insolence, but *seriously* and grandly—as a man who wore a soul of his own in his bosom, and did not wait until it was breathed into him by the breath of fashion. Let men call you mean, if you know that you are just—hypocritical, if you are honestly religious—pusillanimous, if you feel that you are firm; resistance soon converts unprincipled wit into sincere respect, and no after-time can tear from you those feelings which every man carries within him, who has made a noble and successful exertion in a virtuous cause."

SIDNEY SMITH.

## THE AUTHOR'S FORMER WORK.

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### OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"The book is invaluable as a summary of facts, and is written in a manner so simple and earnest that it cannot fail to interest, while it instructs. Painful and repulsive as the subject of the volume confessedly is, it is treated with a delicacy and propriety which must commend the book even to the most sensitive mind. We trust that it will have an extensive circulation."—*The Bradford Review*, Oct., 1859.

"This book commences by a survey of the vicious classes of Women, then inquires by what ranks of society they are mainly encouraged, thence traces some of the evils to their origin, and that very sensibly. This is an **EARNEST EFFORT** to solve the social problem, and proves that the Author had *thought* as well as *felt* before he wrote."—*Athenæum*, Nov., 1859.

"This is emphatically an extraordinary book. Its Author's intention is to lay bare the terrible condition of tens of thousands of women, in order that a remedy may be applied to remove a social 'plague spot,' which it is harrowing to the feelings to contem-

plate. Its revelations are frequently revolting, and its descriptions of the woes of a large portion of British womanhood are truly heart-rending. Social reformers should read the Work."—*The British Messenger*, Jan., 1860.

"We are thankful for the present opportune work, as supplying information, and stimulating to thought and inquiry, upon a most distressing question,—How can a wound be cured unless it is first thoroughly probed—the seat and extent of corruption known, and proper remedies applied? The more painful the subject is, even harrowing to all our best feelings, the more imperative it is that it should be examined in all its bearings, and this the Author does in a very systematic and determined manner. Some very harrowing truths and facts are brought before the mind, which, we trust, may receive the attention of our Clergy, of our Legislators, and, not least, the Ladies of our land."—*The Bath Express*, Nov., 1859.



TO THE  
HONORABLE MRS. C. D \* \* \* \* S.

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HONOURED MADAM,

Could the best efforts of learning, combined with elegance, on any moral subject (especially this now presented to your notice), receive the patronage of your approbation, such a sanction would compensate for years of toil and hours of solicitude beneath the midnight lamp, while the writer would hail with delight the cheering encouragement of your approval.

How much more will the author of this imperfect sketch of "Woman's Wrongs," rejoice to know that even this effort to ameliorate the moral and social condition of women will not be deemed unworthy your commendation.

Not that the author expects unqualified agreement with all his theories and arguments; after having spent many anxious years, many late hours, and devoted his best energies to the subject, he is not unconscious of his inability to portray the wrongs, or suggest remedies for renovating our social condition.

He wishes not to attempt adulation or sully these pages by fulsome flattery; but your noble example, your unwearied devotion, and your unostentatious

labours for the well-being of woman, has endeared you to the hearts of thousands.

While possessing a name honoured by descent, rank, and education, above all by the exhibition of every grace which adorns the female character, deservedly admired and beloved by a large circle of attached and devoted friends, a pattern of Christian piety and concealed benevolence, and an example to all that desire to emulate the nearest approach to every moral virtue—this little work is dedicated, that it may accomplish the writer's most ardent and only desire, the good of women, and that your valuable life may long be spared in the enjoyment of health and unalloyed happiness, is the sincere prayer of,

Honoured Madam,

Your very obedient and faithful servant,

LE PLUS BAS.

## INTRODUCTION.

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COULD it be possible to reveal the hidden woes endured by thousands of respectable females, whose ban is silence, and prospects ISOLATION—the world perceives not their pent up sorrows. Tell me not of woman's independence,—she should indeed be independent, and raised above the bitter, bitter griefs and anxieties now doomed to endure: the long ages of man's neglect and oppression has perverted the laws of nature, and left her to long for a companionship which society now denies. An unknown author says—

“ E'en nature's beauty, its eternal rest,  
Its certain springs, that cheat not hoping hearts,  
But bring fresh welcome each successive hour—  
All this *contents us not*—we must have more!  
We *must* have *human love*—the changeful hopes,  
The deep despair of passion, we must have,  
Or nature yet seems barren to our eyes;  
All that seems fullest of delight, is blank  
To one who roams with uncompanion'd steps.