

IVY CHIMNEYS

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Ivy Chimneys by Edith Cornforth

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EDITH CORNFORTH

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BY

EDITH CORNFORTH.



WESLEYAN-METHODIST SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION,

2, Ludgate Circus Bldgs., E.C.; 2, Castle Street, City Road, E.C.

1885.

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WATMAN BROTHERS AND LILLY,
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LONDON, E.C.



THE object of this story is to strengthen the longing—sometimes, perhaps, vague and hardly recognised—which the writer believes to exist in many hearts, to help the childish waifs of our great cities.

Few girls are free, like Myrtle Shaxon, to originate and carry on a home for destitute children; and yet each reader might surely do something to help those noble men and women who make it their life-work to care for the neglected little ones of our land.

Bluff, the golden-haired, blue-eyed trickster, with the sweet baby face, is no imaginary character. Under the circumstances, his beauty is possibly rare, but alas! the want, and the knowledge of crime, which this child of four had learned during his brief life, are too widely extended.

E. C.

March, 1885.





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' LOVE THOU THY SORROW ; GRIEF SHALL BRING
ITS OWN EXCUSE IN AFTER YEARS ;
THE RAINBOW ! SEE HOW FAIR A THING
GOD HATH BUILT UP FROM TEARS.'—*Henry Sutton.*



IVY GIMNEYS.

CHAPTER I.

A HARD DECREE.

'The face was pale and wan—
As I laye athynkyng—oh ! bitter flow'd the tear !'

AT dawn one chill October morning, William Shaxon turned the latchkey in the door of his house in Arbour Square, off the Commercial Road. He went in quietly to avoid rousing his invalid wife and their two children ; but he need not have taken that precaution, because, seated on the lowest stair waiting for his appearance, he saw Willie and Myrtle, who had both fallen asleep. At the sound of his step, the boy opened his eyes, and catching sight of the anxiously longed-for face, he unclasped his sister's arms from round his neck, and followed