

QUEEN ELFRIDA OF THE OLDEN TIME

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Queen Elfrida of the Olden Time by J. S. Williams

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J. S. WILLIAMS

**QUEEN ELFRIDA OF
THE OLDEN TIME**

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OF

THE OLDEN TIME.

BY

J. S. WILLIAMS.



LONDON:
HATCHARDS, PICCADILLY.

1878.

251. c. 749.

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Cistle St. Leicester Sq.

Dedicated

TO MY DEAR LITTLE NIECES

ELLA, MABEL, AND ROSE,

IN THE HOPE THAT ITS PERUSAL MAY IMPLANT

A LOVE OF HISTORY IN THEIR MINDS.

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PREFACE.

THE main facts related in this little book are true ; but some additional incidents are introduced to make the narrative more interesting. Many English histories have been consulted : principally Tyrrell's and Rapin's ; also Prince's *Worthies of Devon* ; the *Saxon Chronicle* ; Strutt's *Sports and Pastimes* ; the *Story of Corfe Castle*, by the Right Hon. George Bankes, &c.

As the time of the reigns of Edgar and Edward the Martyr was long before the art of printing was invented, it is not surprising that there should be some occasional discre-

pancies between historians as to dates and circumstances. For instance, one author says that Ethelwold was privately married to Elfrida before he spoke to Edgar about her at all, and that he was afterwards re-married ; while others say that he was only betrothed.

It is scarcely necessary to offer an apology for the conversations being in modern English. Had the characters spoken in the Anglo-Saxon language of nine hundred years ago, a fuller glossary would have been required than is to be found accompanying Chaucer's poems. The reader must therefore imagine the conversations to have been already translated.

J. S. W.

CLAPHAM COMMON,
Abril 1878.

QUEEN ELFRIDA,

Of the Olden Time.

CHAPTER I.

IN the year A.D. 964, when King Edgar, named the Peaceable, reigned over England, having quieted the Danes who for the last hundred years and more had ravaged the country, our story commences. On a summer's evening in that year, two travellers on horseback were wending their way over the great moor, now called Dartmoor, in hopes of reaching the hospitable castle belonging to the Earl of Devonshire before nightfall. But they could not pursue their way very quickly, owing to the rugged nature of the ground; and as the