

**ST. GILES  
OF THE LEPERS**

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St. Giles of the Lepers by Edward C. W. Grey

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**EDWARD C. W. GREY**

**ST. GILES  
OF THE LEPERS**



ST. GILES'S OF THE  
LEPERS

BY  
EDWARD C. W. GREY

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May 10, 1974

TO MY MANY COLLEAGUES  
AND  
ESPECIALLY TO MY PUPILS, IN ST. GILES'S,  
THE FOLLOWING PAGES  
ARE DEDICATED.

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## PREFACE

FOR thirty-four years I have worked continuously in St. Giles's, and, during that period, I have, as opportunity offered, collected any facts I could obtain about the district. It abounds indeed not only in historical and social reminiscences, but also in romances of the most thrilling description, for it has been inhabited by "all sorts and conditions of men".

Now that I have left it for ever and have a period of enforced leisure in the country, I am tempted to gather together my gleanings and experiences as they may at least possibly interest some of my old neighbours.

I am well aware that the History of St. Giles's has been written before, notably by Mr. Parton in 1822, by Dr. Dobie in 1829, and by Mr. Clinch some twelve years ago. Of the researches of these gentlemen I have freely availed myself. Still the story has never been attempted exactly from the people's point of view, so in the follow-

ing pages I have tried to fill this gap. To many friends for their advice, and to many books for information, I owe a debt of gratitude, but especially to that admirable book of reference *London Past and Present* by Messrs. Wheatley and Cunningham.

Yet even as I write St. Giles's is rapidly changing. Modern buildings are springing up, and streets are disappearing, while the Kingsway, the new road from Holborn to the Strand, will obliterate some notable landmarks. This is another reason for recording the fast vanishing historical features of our time-honoured parish.

EDWARD C. W. GREY.

#### NOTE

The publication of this book has been delayed by the long and eventually fatal illness of the Author, who did not live to correct the proofs.

Any errors or inaccuracies which may be discovered by the critical must be attributed to this cause.

The Author had intended to publish anonymously; but his name is now given in the hope that the book may be to his many friends a slight memorial of years of ungrudging work devoted to the good of others.

AN OLD FRIEND.

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