

**RIVERS' SHILLING SERIES.
TALES FROM THE GREAT
CITY. A LONDON GIRL**

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Rivers' Shilling Series. Tales from the Great City. A London Girl by Harold Begbie

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HAROLD BEGBIE

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TALES FROM THE GREAT
CITY. A LONDON GIRL**

TALES FROM THE GREAT CITY.



A LONDON GIRL.

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RIVERS' SHILLING SERIES

TALES FROM THE GREAT CITY



A LONDON GIRL

BY THE AUTHOR OF
"CLOSED DOORS" AND "THE RAINY DAY"



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A LONDON GIRL.



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INTRODUCTORY NOTE
TO THE
"TALES FROM THE GREAT CITY."

A RETURN to that wholesome and robust realism of English literature which began with Chaucer and disappeared with Fielding, that realism golden with English summers and merry with English humanity, is, I do not doubt, beyond the strength of the present generation. We are still toiling in the hypocrisy which sneaked into England after Trafalgar and Waterloo with the backwash of a noble revival in religion.

But signs are not wanting to prove that English people have become of late restless under the miserable and cramping affectation which Wesley, and those who followed him, unconsciously laid upon our imaginations. The Victorian age is dead, and the land revives. The romance without passion, the novel without criticism of life, no longer command the public admiration. The Englishman is awaking, as it were, to his pre-Victorian nature. The fiction of the magazines is happily a dead letter. Nobody notices it. The short story very properly is packed away with advertisements. It is left in railway carriages. Editors complain of public indifference; publishers advertise a daily masterpiece in vain. The public is sick of unreality, weary of shadows. Without knowing it, perhaps, the people sigh after truth.