

THE DENS OF LONDON EXPOSED

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The Dens of London Exposed by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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DENS OF LONDON

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No borrow'd joys! they're all our own
While to the world we live unknown,
Or by the world forgot:
Monarchs! we envy not your state,
We look with pity on the great,
And bless our humble lot.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR & PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1835.

27

TO THE
NOBILITY, GENTRY, &c.

SUBSCRIBERS TO THE MENDICITY SOCIETY.

AN individual, little known and unpatronized, presumes to dedicate the following pages to a Society, the object of which is to prevent impositions, deceptions, and frauds upon the benevolently disposed, by common mendicants and others, under the plea of necessity.

The contents of this slight volume, by presenting a descriptive view of some of the lowest classes, in their private haunts, their midnight orgies, and their unrestrained moments, in places to which few persons would willingly penetrate, (divested, however, of the grossness inseparable

from the scenes themselves), may, perhaps, prove neither uninteresting or unproductive of benefit to the community.

Those who move in a respectable sphere, can form but very inadequate notions of the extremes of misery and vice, to be found among the dregs of society in all large cities, especially in such a metropolis as London. An attempt has been here made to convey an idea of some portion of that wretchedness, and of those evils which it would require more than the philanthropy of a HOWARD, and the beneficent jurisprudence of a ROMILLY, to remove, or even materially to mitigate.

What the author has described, he has witnessed, and that description he has endeavoured to give, not in the language of fiction—not from creations of imagination—but in plain unvarnished unexaggerated terms of Truth; he has not depended upon the evidence of others, or upon borrowed representations; but for the purpose of this work, he has himself mixed, a spectator, in

the purlieus of those "DENS," which have formed the subject matter of his pen.

In the hope that his time will not have been entirely thrown away, he respectfully commits his labours to the candour of a liberal and discerning public.

THE AUTHOR.

London, April 1835.

P R E F A C E .

THE contents of the following pages were composed for "a popular periodical Magazine," and accepted by the proprietor—the Author having previously written a series of papers in that work. Circumstances, however, have induced him to adopt the present form of publication. The idea, as far as he is aware, is original, and the materials so copious as to be almost