

**THE STORY OF THE
ENGLISH TOWNS;
BIRMINGHAM**

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The Story of the English Towns; Birmingham by J. H. B. Masterman

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J. H. B. MASTERMAN

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ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

Frontispiece

THE STORY OF THE ENGLISH TOWNS

BIRMINGHAM

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PREFACE

I HAVE mentioned overleaf some of the most accessible authorities from which I have drawn materials for this book. I wish to express my special indebtedness to Mr. R. K. Dent, whose *Making of Birmingham* is a storehouse of information about the history and institutions of the city. Mr. Howard Pearson has most kindly allowed me to avail myself of his great knowledge of Birmingham, and has read through these chapters in proof. Mr. Walter Powell, Chief Librarian of the Birmingham Public Libraries, has given valuable help in connection with the illustrations and maps.

I have tried to avoid overloading this book with details of merely local interest. My aim has been to show the part that Birmingham has played in national history. I hope that the citizens of Birmingham will accept this attempt to tell the story of their city as an expression of gratitude for the many kindnesses that I received from them during the ten years that I had the honour of sharing their life and interests.

J. HOWARD B. MASTERMAN.

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