

OLYMPIA'S JOURNAL

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Olympia's Journal by W. S. Holnut

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W. S. HOLNUT

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W. S. HOLNUT



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INTRODUCTION.

FLORENCE, *May 1st*, 1890.

IT is now three years and a half since I first conceived the idea of writing down a minute record of all my thoughts and actions. I was then an enthusiastic girl, longing for distinction as an author, and eager to snatch at any opportunity of forwarding my ambition. I suppose my condition of mind about that time might be termed a craze, for it impelled me to an action upon which to the end of my life I shall look back with shame and remorse. This action, as the following pages will show, was my marriage with a man whom I could neither love, honour or obey, but who, from the singularity of his character

and life, appeared to be a desirable object for a psychological study.

In sacrificing myself to my calling, I believed that I was performing a meritorious action: I forgot that I was also sacrificing him.

Now that years have passed and I have expiated, as far as lies in my power, the fault I then committed, I give parts of this diary to the world in the hope that my experiences may deter other women from a similar mistake.

In doing this I add nothing to the pages which were written for myself alone, and I omit nothing from them except such entries as are irrelevant. This is a confession, and therefore a part of my punishment.

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PART I.