

**THE CITY OF
REFUGE. IN THREE
VOLUMES; VOL. I**

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The city of refuge. In three volumes; Vol. I by Walter Besant

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WALTER BESANT

**THE CITY OF
REFUGE. IN THREE
VOLUMES; VOL. I**

THE CITY OF REFUGE

THE CITY OF REFUGE

BY

WALTER BESANT

AUTHOR OF

'ALL SORTS AND CONDITIONS OF MEN,' 'CHILDREN OF GIBION,'
'THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN,' ETC.



IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. I.

LONDON
CHATTO & WINDUS

1896

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P R E F A C E

As I have received certain questions and heard certain irresponsible criticisms concerning alleged rapidity of production, based on the appearance of the 'City of Refuge' only a few months after that of the 'Master Craftsman,' I think it is necessary to explain that the former was written for serial publication in the *Pall Mall Magazine* for last year, 1895, and in accordance with that arrangement the story occupied me during the greater part of the year 1894; that it was not found convenient to carry out the original intention, and that the serial publication was therefore deferred until the

present year, viz., from April to October. Again, if the matter concerns anybody, I might mention that it would be to me, and I believe to everybody, utterly impossible to write two novels at the same time.

Certain alterations and additions to the story, as it appeared in the magazine, may, perhaps, be noted by any reader who first saw it in serial form.

W. B.

UNITED UNIVERSITY CLUB,
September 1896.

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THE CITY OF REFUGE

PROLOGUE.

WHO SHALL RID ME?

'GILBERT! At last!

She had been leaning forward, her hands clasped over her knees, staring straight before her; her eyes were angry and hard—there were black rings round them; her face was pale; her look was set; and her lips were drawn as one who suffers physical pain.

On the floor there rolled about a child of a year and a half. The nurse, who had brought in the boy, thinking to distract