

# **THE DEVIL'S CHAIN**

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The Devil's Chain by Edward Jenkins

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**EDWARD JENKINS**

**THE  
DEVIL'S CHAIN**



THE DEVIL'S CHAIN

*Make a Chain! For the land is full of bloody crimes, and  
the city is full of violence.—EZEKIEL.*

# THE DEVIL'S CHAIN

By EDWARD JENKINS, M.P.,

AUTHOR OF "GINN'S BABY," ETC.



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1876

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## Dedication

TO

SIR WILFRID LAWSON, BART., M.P.

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MY DEAR LAWSON,

I dedicate this book to you, not as a token of adhesion to all your opinions, but as a tribute of sympathy with you in your gallant fight with a terrible evil, and of admiration for your pluck.

At a time when this latter virtue has grown weak on front benches, it is refreshing to find it vigorous below the gangway. A man who cannot be driven from a frank expression and profession of the truth he holds within him, either by the crackling laughter of a select few

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or the outcry of the mob, is in these days a rare work of God, the which, when one sees it, he feels bound to bless heaven for, and to take hopeful courage for humanity.

Perplexed between the extremes of a disease at once so complicated and outrageous as that which you work so hard to remedy, I do not attempt in this book to prescribe the purge. My aim is here—as it was in “Ginx’s Baby”—rather to exhibit in rude, stern, truthful outlines the full features and proportions of the abuses I would humbly help to remove. It is a great thing done if we can get people to think about the reality, bearings, and size of an evil; and in spite of the exposures, through the press, of the dismal fruits of the traffic in drink, I find men going about, and dining comfortably, and voting steadily, in utter disregard of their fell, disastrous, and diabolical effects. I cannot acquit myself of having too long done the like.

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I have therefore tried to bring into one small picture a somewhat comprehensive view of these evils, in the hope of rousing some men of quiet digestion out of their apathy, and so of aiding your noble work.

No one knows better than you that there is not an incident in the ensuing pages which is not unhappily not only possible, but probable. In no case have I represented here any individual, yet, I do not doubt that I shall be credited with intentional personalities. No better evidence could be afforded of the extent and variety of the evils against which you so righteously protest.

Believe me,

My dear Lawson,

Yours very faithfully,

EDWARD JENKINS.

20, SOUTHWELL GARDENS,  
SOUTH KENSINGTON,  
*December 1st, 1875.*