

LAYS OF COMMON LIFE

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Lays of Common Life by William Toynbee

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WILLIAM TOYNBEE

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COMMON LIFE**

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BY

WILLIAM TOYNBEE

Author of "A Selection from the Songs of De Béranger" in English Verse etc

London

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HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN

1890.

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LAYS OF COMMON LIFE.

OUT OF IT!

Oh, she's handsome enough, I admit, in her way,
That, at least, the world's always allowed,
Though she wouldn't be but for enamel, they say,
Which, of course, stands the test of a crowd.
Her hair, too, once really that old-fashioned gold
Such as nowadays seldom is seen,
On careful inspection discloses, I'm told,
An awkward substratum of green!

"Do I know her?" Well, after a fashion, I do,
When I'm not about town with my daughters,
Or am killing at Trouville an "off" week or two,
While my lady's at Aix for the waters;
I rather like looking her up, you see, then,
She's such deuced good company still,
As most women-folk are (that's to say, for us men)
When they once take to trotting down hill.

"Who was she?" Why, Marmaduke Davenal's girl;
I dandled her when in short frocks,
Long before, don't you know, he came out as an
Earl,
Or had handled a Treasury-box;
A shy little creature she seemed in those days,
Sort of blend of a blush and a blink;
You'd as soon have imagined her one of the "strays"
As have pictured a bishop in pink!