

# **THE CREW OF THE DOLPHIN**

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The Crew of the Dolphin by Hesba Stretton

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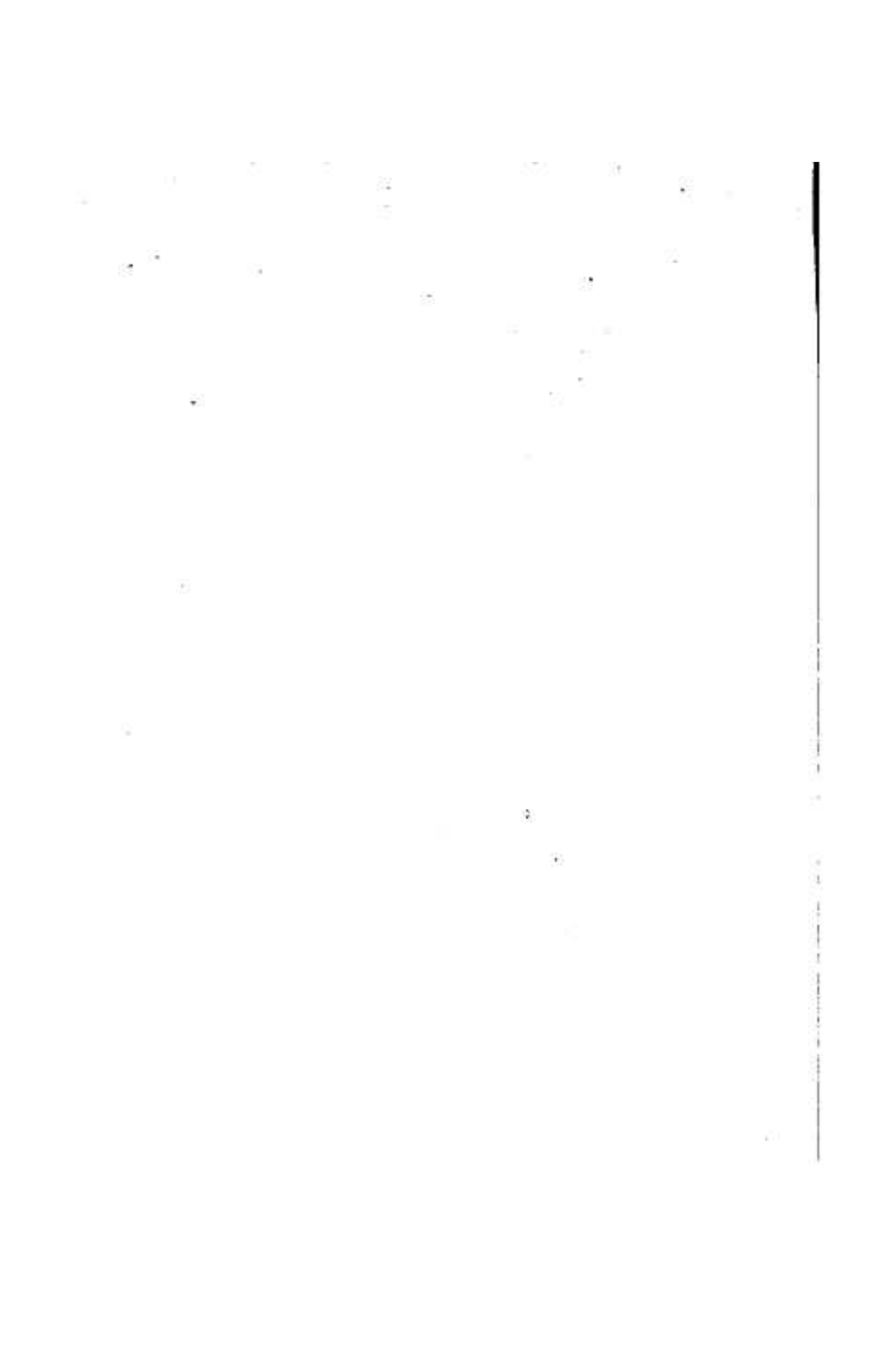
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**HESBA STRETTON**

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THE DOLPHIN**



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CREW OF THE DOLPHIN

BY  
HESBA STRETTON.

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THE  
CREW OF THE "DOLPHIN."

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CHAPTER I.

HIGH STREET, WAPPING.

**T**HE autumn was sweeping along irresistibly over land and sea, putting summer to flight with evershortening days and nights of deeper darkness. For some time past the morning mists had been gathering more thickly on the river and in the streets of London, giving due warning of the denser fogs that were about to follow in their wake. The wind had been easterly, with a touch of northerly in it when it veered at all.

The Thames was of a more slaty hue than it had been in the sunnier light of summer. But it had been calm still weather for some days ; and when the mist rolled away each day towards noon, a light, bright blue sky shone overhead, with soft clouds floating slowly westward before the low east wind.

Down at Wapping, in the High Street, where the houses towards the river have almost all been turned into wharfs and warehouses, there was a good deal of stir and activity. Vessels lay outside to be laden ; and the clanking of the cranes lowering the cargoes into the holds might be heard all day. But for sounds like this Wapping would have been the quietest spot in London. No omnibuses were passing ; and there were not many trains running to the little station on the bank of the river. Back, in Great Hermitage Street, there was scarcely a sign of life, a few chil-