

**LONDON PRIDE  
AND  
LONDON SHAME**

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London pride and London shame by L. Cope Cornford

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**L. COPE CORNFORD**

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

"THE CANKER AT THE HEART."

"THE DEFENCELESS ISLANDS."

LONDON PRIDE  
AND  
LONDON SHAME

BY  
L. COPE CORNFORD

LONDON  
P. S. KING & SON  
ORCHARD HOUSE  
WESTMINSTER

1910

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LONDON AND TONBRIDGE.



TO  
CHRISTABEL CORNFORD  
*WHO SENT ME TO GATHER LONDON  
PRIDE (WHICH THE COUNTRY FOLK  
CALL "NONE-SO-PRETTY") WHERE  
IT GROWS INTERTWINED WITH  
LONDON SHAME.*

## PREFACE

*“Why are these things so?  
What ought to be done?”*

IN attempting to delineate certain aspects of the life of London, and phases connected with that life, I have dealt directly with several peculiarly distressing subjects. Upon these I should prefer to refrain from moralising. It is not my business to moralise. But, if I may judge by previous experience, it is sometimes expected of him who diagnoses the disease that he should prescribe the remedy. Some years ago, I wrote a series of articles treating of the condition of the poor in this country. They were first published in *The Standard*, and afterwards collected in a book, under the title of “The Canker at the Heart.” Their immediate result—so far as the author was concerned—was that I received many letters from excellent persons asking me what “ought to be done;” and very often these good people sent me various sums of money to spend as I thought fit upon the relief of distress. Some were kind enough to call upon me. I fear that they went away disappointed, for I had no saving universal panacea to give them. Is it therefore my fault that nothing has been done?

A year or so afterwards, I wrote another series of articles, which dealt with the state of this country with regard to preparation for war and the effects of war upon all classes of society. These also were first published in *The Standard*, and afterwards collected in a book; and the title was "The Defenceless Islands." Their immediate result was—nothing. My publisher sadly informs me from time to time that no one will buy the book. Sensitive as English people are to the pathetic, they were (and are) wholly insensitive to an array of facts which really represent one of the most dangerous consequences of that state of things which (to be honest, the title was presented to me by a friend) I have called "The Canker at the Heart." People do not believe that these islands are in any degree defenceless, and therefore the effects upon the population of a hypothetical war do not interest them. Therefore they did not ask me what, in my view, "ought to be done." I was inclined to regret this circumstance, because in the case of the Defenceless Islands, I could have told them. However, they did not want to know; and, as in the other case, nothing has been done—less than nothing, in fact.

What will happen in the case of "London Pride and London Shame?" I hope (for the sake of my publishers) that a few people, at least, will buy the book. Let me assume that they have embarked upon that speculation, and let me also venture for a moment to assume that these my readers honour