

**TOILERS IN LONDON; OR,
INQUIRIES CONCERNING FEMALE
LABOUR IN THE METROPOLIS.
BEING THE SECOND PART OF
"TEMPTED LONDON."**

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Toilers in London; or, Inquiries concerning female labour in the metropolis. Being the second part of "Tempted London." by Various

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VARIOUS

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TOILERS IN LONDON;

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*INQUIRIES CONCERNING FEMALE LABOUR
IN THE METROPOLIS.*

Being the Second Part of "Tempted London."

BY THE

"BRITISH WEEKLY" COMMISSIONERS.

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Edited by the Author of "Out of Work," &c.

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1889

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*"Is it well that while we range with Science, glorying in
the Time,
City children soak and blacken soul and sense in city
slime?
There among the gloomy alleys Progress halts on palsied
feet,
Crime and hunger cast our maidens by the thousand on the
street.
There the Master scrimps his haggard sempstress of her
daily bread,
There a single sordid attic holds the living and the dead!"*



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CHAPTER I.

FLOWER-GIRLS.

THE flower-girl is such a familiar sight to Londoners, that few of us realise what the streets of the metropolis would miss if she were banished.

“The world would be a sorry place if it had no flowers in it,” an old man said to one of our Commissioners, while he was buying some primroses from a girl at the corner of Oxford Street. It was Primrose Day, and the old man was fastening a small bunch of primroses in his coat when our Commissioner stopped beside the flower-girl’s basket.

Fifteen years ago no flower-girls enlivened London thoroughfares. If people wanted flowers they were obliged to find a nursery garden, or to visit a market. At these places flowers were then very expensive ; for the people had not at that time learnt to appreciate simple flowers