

**LONDON: A SHORT
HISTORY, WITH MAPS
AND ILLUSTRATIONS**

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London: A Short History, with Maps and Illustrations by M. J. C. Meiklejohn

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M. J. C. MEIKLEJOHN

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A SHORT HISTORY
WITH MAPS AND
ILLUSTRATIONS, BY
M.J.C. MEIKLEJOHN, B.A.

SOMETIME
ADAM DE BROME EXHIBITIONER
OF ORIEL COLLEGE
OXFORD

LONDON
ALFRED M. HOLDEN
23 PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1898

F11

C.E. BISHOP
MAY 14 1939

DEDICATED BY PERMISSION
TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD REAY, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.
CHAIRMAN OF THE
LONDON SCHOOL BOARD

'You must remember that London is not merely the capital of England, Scotland, and Ireland; it is the capital of the British Empire.'

LORD ROSEBURY,

Feb. 1898.

'The streets, wherever one turns, whisper a thousand things of the past: the churches contain the ashes of those great men who fought in the long struggle for liberty at home, and carried the flag of enterprise abroad; the companies tell of trade regulated for the good of the craftsman; the Lord Mayor himself, with his mediæval array and his mediæval officers, is to me a Historic Monument which ought never to be removed.'

SIR WALTER BESANT,

Feb. 1898.

P R E F A C E

GEORGE I. was a German, and 'knew not his chief city.' He had small chance of doing so, for he preferred to spend most of his time in Germany, and in London he lived very little.

At the present day some six millions of people spend their lives in London. How many of these know anything of their town? With the thirty thousand streets of London, no man—not even a cabman, or a mounted police-inspector—can become acquainted; of the ten great cities that are contained in London, one can only get to know at first-hand about two or three; and the vastness of the idea conveyed by the words 'Greater London' almost appals the intelligence. But the history of the 'Town'—and London contains more of the history of England than any other English city—may, and ought to, be learned by her children, great and small. Yet how many of London's older children, taken at random, are conscious of the important geographical and historical facts that lie hidden in the names of Fleet Street, Ludgate Hill, Cheapside, or Tooley Street? And how many of London's school-children know how London first became a city, or have

any idea of the steps by which she reached her present astonishing position ?

To teach some part of that lesson is the aim of this short book. It does not profess to give any account of modern London, or deal with the million phases of modern London life. If the book conveys to the learner some idea of London's great historical past, the writer's end has been achieved. The writer has to express his very great obligations to the books of Mr. W. J. Loftie and Sir Walter Besant on London and Westminster, and to thank Mr. Edward Stanford for permission to use the map of 'London before the Houses.'

M. J. C. MEIKLEJOHN.

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