

**THE LONDON GUIDE, AND STRANGER'S
SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE CHEATS,
SWINDLERS, AND PICKPOCKETS
THAT ABOUND WITHIN THE BILLS OF
MORTALITY; FORMING A PICTURE OF
LONDON, AS REGARDS ACTIVE LIFE**

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The London Guide, and Stranger's Safeguard Against the Cheats, Swindlers, and Pickpockets that Abound within the Bills of Mortality; Forming a Picture of London, as Regards Active Life by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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EXAMPLE OF EARLY DEPRAVITY

vide page 36

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SECOND EDITION.

THE
LONDON GUIDE,

AND

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AGAINST THE

Cheats, Swindlers, and Pickpockets

THAT ABOUND WITHIN

THE BILLS OF MORTALITY;

FORMING A

PICTURE OF LONDON,

AS REGARDS

ACTIVE LIFE.

COLLECTED FROM THE VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS OF
WILLIAM PERRY, AND OTHERS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A GLOSSARY OF CANT PHRASES.

BY A GENTLEMAN,

WHO HAS MADE

THE POLICE OF THE METROPOLIS,

AN OBJECT OF ENQUIRY TWENTY-FOUR YEARS.

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INTRODUCTION.



WHEN a stranger first arrives in this overgrown city, and finds, upon alighting at the inn, that he has still some miles perhaps to go before he can see his friends, he is naturally anxious for advice how to reach them in safety, with his luggage. But, if this be the case with those who have got friends, what is the dread of such as have a home to seek, business to look after, or a place of service to obtain, without a friend to guide their steps, or a candid person to warn them of their danger; to tell them of the precipices, pit falls, and moral turpitude, of a large proportion of the population of this great metropolis?

To supply the place of a *living friend*, and in some cases to perform the necessary part of one, by directing the stranger in the choice of companions, and what characters he should avoid, I have compiled these sheets; in which will be found "all I know about the matter," and all I could "learn out" by "fine-drawing" of others. In this work I have obtained the assist-

ance of an author by profession, who will new-write it mostly all over. The gentleman will put all of it in order, fit to be read, and add a word or two, or a line or two, here and there, when I am *out*. This is but fair and proper, considering as I am not much used to the pen, I might make "a pretty kettle of fish of it;" so, "I cares not, not I," says I to the gentleman as employs us both, "its all one to me, though he should strike out every word; for, as for me, as I mean to *out with it all*, he may put it down in what lingo he likes." This is all I shall say "of my own accord," seeing I am willing to make amends for my past life, by disclosing such secrets as never were made public before, not upon paper; and I thought I would have a few words of my own put down in *genuine*, at the beginning, without any of his "making or meddling." So, as I have promised and mean to leave off the *cutting*, and "live comfortable" upon the profits of this here book, I have just put an end to it by *grabbing* three or four books* from the gentleman, my employer, which I have now got under my great coat, as I mean to borrow a word or two, and a few hints as I go on, as is usual in book-making.

Although one of them authors pretends to be up to

* 1. Report of the house of commons on the police; 2. A treatise on the police of the metropolis; 3. King's Frauds of London; 4. Sir John Fielding's tracts; 5. New Monthly Magazine, 1st June, 1817, and Oct. Nov. Dec. and Jan. following.

a great deal, yet he does not know more about the matter than one of us, nor half so much as myself of some things. He had his information from an interested, and therefore a polluted, source,—the officers. When he says, “there are twenty thousand persons of both sexes, who get up in the morning without knowing whereabouts they shall sleep at night,” he makes a decent good round numbered guess, as applied to one part of the year, but not so as to another, which shows want of discrimination. But what of the fact? Does he propose a remedy? If he had pointed out the means of sheltering them at night, he would have been more beneficially employed; as the statement now stands his readers are left to conclude, “that those twenty thousand houseless wretches are upon the look out for what they can appropriate to themselves.” Agreed, as to this inference; and I can tell him, there are an equal number (more) who live in comparative affluence, who are equally upon the alert in *actual robbery*, to say nothing of mere cheats, mace-coves, and such like.”

How to steer clear of and to detect these, and a multitude of others, who are always keeping a sharp look out to entrap the property of the honest part of the community, to take in and cheat the unwary,—to rob and perhaps murder the unprotected, and to make a prey of the unsuspecting,—are the motives for this publication. As the information it contains is faithful and genuine, it cannot fail to be highly *useful* to the perambulator and resident Inhabitant, *valuable* as a