

**LONDON: ITS LITERARY  
AND HISTORICAL  
CURIOSITIES**

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London: Its Literary and Historical Curiosities by F. Saunders

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**F. SAUNDERS**

**LONDON: ITS LITERARY  
AND HISTORICAL  
CURIOSITIES**





THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

# LONDON:

## Literary and Historical Curiosities.

BY F. SAUNDERS,

AUTHOR OF "SALAD FOR THE SOLDIERY," ETC., ETC.

"I pray you let us satisfy our eyes  
With the monuments and the things of fame  
That do renown this city."



NEW YORK:  
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1854

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# LONDON:

## Its Literary and Historic Curiosities.

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### CHAPTER I.

*Introductory—Historic and Literary Associations—Roman London—Ancient City Boundaries and Forts—Present Extent—Social Condition—Local Curiosities in early Times—Modern Architectural Improvements—Physical Aspect of the City, etc.*



LONDON has been not inaptly designated the City of the World; and it merits the distinction as well on account of its extent, and its opulence, and splendour, as its rich historical and literary associations.

Considering its vast extent, and its still increasing growth, London has suffered less spoliation from the touch of time, or the no less ruthless spirit of innovation, than any other city. It is on this account that it is regarded as an immense museum of the curious and the antique, as well as the emporium of modern art. The history of England being antecedent to, and part of our own, necessarily links that land

to ours by the closest ties: all, therefore, that pertains to the former, must ever enlist the sympathies of the latter. There is indeed connected with these mementoes of the past, a strange fascination to the lover of his country, and its great men, and more especially is it so in all that concerns its authors. The several dwelling places of those who have enriched our literature, or illustrated the great moral maxims of life, become endeared to our hearts;—these are the shrines consecrated by the *genius loci*,—they seem almost part and parcel of the departed. Home is the sanctuary of the affections, and it is the like influence of association that causes us to cherish the fond memorials of the benefactors of our race. What lover of Shakspeare, but would delight to linger within the precincts of the well-remembered ‘Globe’ at Southwark, or the final resting place of the mighty bard of Avon? Who, in reading Chaucer’s tales of the Canterbury Pilgrims, would not willingly perform a pilgrimage himself, that he might gaze upon the old *Tabard*. Or as we pore over the pleasant pages of Goldsmith, or become rapt in the lofty sublimities of Milton’s spiritual imageries,—do we not instinctively long to catch a glimpse of the dingy abode of the former, in Green Arbor Court, or the several localities which the