

**DIGGLES; A LEGEND OF THE
VICTORIA DOCKS; COMPILED
FROM AUTHENTIC MANUSCRIPTS
IN THE POSSESSION OF ARTHUR
DE CRIPP ELGATE**

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Diggles; A Legend of the Victoria Docks; Compiled from Authentic Manuscripts in the Possession of Arthur de Cripp Elgate by Thomas Gray

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THOMAS GRAY

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D I G G L E S .





DIGGLES;

▲

Legend of the Victoria Rocks;

COMPILED

FROM AUTHENTIC MANUSCRIPTS

IN THE POSSESSION OF

ARTHUR DE CRIPP ELGATE,

S.Q.V., T.P., R.F., ETC., ETC.



LONDON:

BEMROSE AND SONS, 21, PATERNOSTER ROW; AND DERBY.

1868.

280. m. 277.





INTRODUCTION.



LADIES,

To you I appeal first, not as a matter of politeness, for I am not polite—nor as a compliment, for I am not complimentary—but as a matter of duty. If you desire the franchise, I think you ought to have it, and I—wish you may get it. If, with your winning ways and loving smiles, you keep on “grinding at the MILL,” you may possibly (I wish I could say probably) succeed.

Do not be prevailed on to read chapters 24 and 28 of the following pages.

GENTLEMEN,

I appeal to your reason. Read this book, and profit by it. Do not let it lie idle on your table, but circulate it, and reduce the poor's rate.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

If you read the following pages aright you will discover a serious meaning. If you do not discover this meaning you may conclude that you have not read them aright.

It takes a wise man (which term includes woman) to make a good fool. You are wise. Therefore for this once condescend to become good fools.

I am indebted to Mr. Thomas Gray for the Training Ship Boys' song "Homeward," to Mr. William Boys for the "Cat" song, and to Mr. M'Arthur for the "Blue Bottel" and "Father John." For the remainder I am responsible.

It is right that I should be particular in stating distinctly that these songs were not written for this Book. Some of them were written years ago; but as they have become my property, and I have secured the Copyright of them, I have exercised the privileges of ownership, and have inserted them in Diggles.

The opinions of the writers of the songs must not be confounded with the opinions expressed in the Story of Diggles.

ARTHUR DE CRIPP ELGATE.

