

**MEMORABLE LONDON HOUSES:
A HANDY GUIDE, WITH
ILLUSTRATIVE ANECDOTES AND
A REFERENCE PLAN**

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Memorable London houses: a handy guide, with illustrative anecdotes and a reference plan by
Wilmot Harrison

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WILMOT HARRISON

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LONDON HOUSES

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"I have seen various places . . . which have been rendered interesting by great men and their works ; and I never found myself the worse for seeing them, but the better. I seem to have made friends with them in their own houses ; to have walked and talked, and suffered and enjoyed with them. . . . Even in London I find the principle hold good in me, though I have lived there many years, and of course associated it with every commonplace the most unpoetical. . . . I once had duties to perform which kept me out late at night, and severely taxed my health and spirits. My path lay through a neighbourhood in which Dryden lived ; and though nothing could be more commonplace, and I used to be tired to the heart and soul of me, I never hesitated to go a little out of my way, purely that I might pass through Gerrard Street, and so give myself the shadow of a pleasant thought."

LEIGH HUNT'S *Men, Women, and Books*.

PREFACE.

THE reflection that many residents in, and visitors to London must, as they walk through its streets, desiderate a simple and easy means of identifying houses in which have lived those who have made a name in history; those whose works, literary, artistic, or scientific, continue to delight and instruct us; or those whose genius tradition has rendered famous, supplied to the author the motive for this little work.

The interest is distinctly *residential*—taverns, coffee-houses, and club-houses are not included; moreover, the houses of "the great," in the sense in which the term is applied to mere rank and fashion, have no place, nor will any "Romance of the Peccage" be found in these pages.

Knowledge, more or less, of the lives and labours of the personages referred to is, of necessity, presupposed. Biography and criticism of a hundred and forty individuals are alike excluded by the limits of a handbook. It may reasonably be assumed, however, that its contents can hardly fail to stimulate—and, it is hoped, assist—research, and, with increased knowledge on the reader's part, acquire additional interest and value. What has been attempted is, by a few pungent extracts, preferably from contemporary writers, to indicate salient points of character and conduct; to present a word-portrait of the subject "in his habit as he lived;" and to note such incidents and events as lend an additional interest to

the house indicated; while the *entertainment* of the reader in the selection of anecdotes has not been overlooked.

The plan of the work does not include mere *sites* on which rebuilding has taken place, except where the present structure has been marked with a tablet by the Society of Arts, the omission to notice which might reasonably call for remark.

Mr. Martin's Illustrations cannot fail to be appreciated as souvenirs by the visitor. In some cases they will assist in identifying the houses indicated; in many the prevalent uniformity of the street will diminish their utility for this purpose; in most they may, if it so please the reader, be regarded as a satire on the depressing monotony and ugliness of London street architecture generally.

Routes are arranged for the convenience of those who desire it; but, the numbers on the margin corresponding with the blue figures on the Plan, the nature of the interest at any particular spot can be easily found in the book, or the position of a particular residence mentioned as readily discovered on the Plan: an Index of Streets as well as of Residents is also provided.

W. H.

May 1889.

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