

PREFATORY NOTE.

Though nearly thirty-four years have elapsed since the Trial recorded in these pages, several of the chief actors in the drama played out at the Old Bailey are still alive and active. I have only to mention Lord Halsbury, Sir Edward Clarke, Sir Harry Poland, Sir Douglas Straight, and Sir Charles Mathews. From several of these—I would particularly mention Sir Edward Clarke and Sir Harry Poland—I have received valuable assistance in the preparation of this book, and I gladly seize the opportunity of acknowledging my obligation. My thanks are also due to those who have helped me to procure the photographs which, in several instances, are of the same date as the Trial, and which will contribute, I think, in no small measure to the interest of the volume. Lady Holker has kindly given permission for the reproduction of the picture of her late husband. The photograph of the unhappy Harriet Staunton was lent to me by my friend Mr. Willoughby Maycock, C.M.G. As it is probable that some of the prisoners who so narrowly escaped the extreme penalty of the law may still be living, it has been thought better to refrain from giving any clue to their identity by the publication of their likenesses.

The difficulties of obtaining a literal and absolutely authentic report of an English Trial where no official shorthand writer is employed are almost insuperable, and for reasons explained in the book only faint justice has been done to the speeches of counsel. The evidence, however, which is, after all, the most important matter, is, I venture to hope, after a careful and somewhat painful collation, faithfully reproduced. Where possible and desirable, I have given the examination and cross-examination of witnesses in the form of question and answer. To have done so throughout, even if the material were in existence, would have swollen the report to intolerable proportions. Where condensed, the version here preserved is taken from the Sessions' Papers.

ADELPHI TERRACE,
February, 1911.

J. B. ATLAY.