

## LONDON.

TO the rising generation of this country in general—and to the readers of EXCELSIOR in particular—it is probable that the name of London conveys nothing more than an abstraction—an indefinite idea as of a gigantic hive in which some millions of their own species live, move, and have their being.

Such knowledge as they have will presumably be that which is derived from reading, and consequently associated with historical or literary interests. They may probably have a closer knowledge, for instance, of the topography of the Tower of London, than the great majority of Londoners born and bred. Lady Jane Grey and Annie Boleyn, Sir Thomas Wyatt and Sir Walter Raleigh, have familiarized them with the Traitor's Gate, The White Tower, or the spot on Tower Hill which has so often been stained with noble blood.

To their minds Fleet Street may suggest a present picture of the home of the English press, of a row of stately publishing houses giving birth to such giants of the fourth estate as the *Times* and the *Daily Telegraph*; or a picture of the past in which are shadowed the mighty dead of literature, in which are dimly outlined the Addison, Popes, Drydens, Johnsons and Goldsmiths—whose names are associated as closely with the old thoroughfare as with the very works they produced.

Westminster Abbey, and St. Paul's Cathedral, St. James Palace, or Whitehall, each of these will awaken a train of associations in the minds of readers and students, and in all probability the students to whom the writer has the honor of addressing himself, will have a larger, or at least a fresher memory of these associations than many who have studied London's history amidst the scenes in which it was made.

To a knowledge of London in its historical and literary aspects, in its development from the Londinium of old, or from the even more remote *Luan-Dun*\* of Francis Crossley, I have neither the wish nor the power to bring my reader; but should I succeed in giving him some slight grasp of the conditions of life

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\*City of the Moon.—Celtic.