

A STORY OF OLD LONDON TOWN

DICK MUNDAY. By HERBERT HARRISON, Author of "The Braganza Necklace." Here we have the second book of an author definitely setting the seal on the success of the first. The plot is laid in the old London of the coffee-houses, the goldsmiths' shops, the taverns, and sedan chairs of what may be called the "Temple Bar" period. The period of fancy in dress and manners, of bullies and braggadocio, when law and order hardly held the reins, and courageous lawlessness had much its own way. When the gin-shops advertised that all and sundry could become intoxicated for one penny and that clean straw was provided on which to lie whilst sleeping off the effects. But even amidst such surroundings as were provided by the purlieus of old Shoe Lane, there was room for gentleness, goodness, and romance to blossom, and for the most gin-sodden there is possible complete rehabilitation and future happiness. The story is, however, by no means morbid, and abounds with bright adventure, one of the incidents being the somewhat desperate expedient of a Fleet marriage. The web-toed hero was evidently not intended by destiny to meet an untimely end, and, as may be imagined, the end of our story is also thoroughly satisfactory. "The Braganza Necklace" was a good story, but it can be stated, most emphatically, that this is a better, and one to be recommended to all lovers of healthy adventure.

To those who like to have their romances with a genuine historical setting this book will be treasure-trove indeed. The illusion is so well managed that the reader gets a distinct feeling of familiarity with the very streets and shops of the period, and of veritably rubbing shoulders with its inhabitants.

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