

Old and New Paris : Its History, Its People, and Its Places, Volume II (Illustrated)

Henry Sutherland Edwards



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This book is an illustrated version of the original Old and New Paris by Henry Sutherland Edwards. "Lutetia, the ancient Paris, or Lutetia Parisiorum, as it was called by the Romans, stood in the midst of marshes. The name, derived, suggestively enough, from lutum, the Latin for mud, has been invested with a peculiar significance by those stern moralists who see in Paris nothing but a sink of iniquity. Balzac called it a "wen"; and Blucher, when some ferocious member of his staff suggested the destruction of Paris, exclaimed: "Leave it alone; Paris will destroy all France!" By a critic of less severe temperament Paris has been contemptuously described as "the tavern of Europe"—le cabaret de l'Europe. Lutetia, however, can afford to smile alike at the slurs of moralists and the sneers of cynics; and the etymology of her name need by no means alarm those of her admirers who will reflect that lilies may spring from mud, and that the richest corn is produced from the blackest soil."

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