How the Other Half Lives: Studies Among the Tenements of New York

Jacob A. (Jacob August) Riis

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HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES

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STUDIES AMONG THE TENEMENTS OF NEW YORK

BY JACOB A. RIIS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS CHIEFLY FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY THE AUTHOR

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
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PREFACE.

The belief that every man's experience ought to be worth something to the community from which he drew it, no matter what that experience may be, so long as it was gleaned along the line of some decent, honest work, made me begin this book. With the result before him, the reader can judge for himself now whether or not I was right. Right or wrong, the many and exacting duties of a newspaper man's life would hardly have allowed me to bring it to an end but for frequent friendly lifts given me by willing hands. To the President of the Board of Health, Mr. Charles G. Wilson, and to Chief Inspector Byrnes of the Police Force I am indebted for much kindness. The patient friendship of Dr. Roger S. Tracy, the Registrar of Vital Statistics, has done for me what I never could have done for myself; for I know nothing of tables, statistics and percentages, while there is nothing about them that he does not know. Most of all, I owe in this, as in all things else, to the womanly sympathy and the loving companionship of my dear wife, ever my chief helper, my wisest counsellor, and my gentlest critic.

J. A. R.

CONTENTS.

PAGE

INTRODUCTION, **1**

CHAPTER I.

GENESIS OF THE TENEMENT, 7

CHAPTER II.

THE AWAKENING, 15

CHAPTER III.

THE MIXED CROWD, 21

CHAPTER IV.

THE DOWN TOWN BACK-ALLEYS, 28

CHAPTER V.

THE ITALIAN IN NEW YORK, 48

CHAPTER VI.

THE BEND, 55

CHAPTER VII.

A RAID ON THE STALE-BEER DIVES, 71

CHAPTER VIII.

THE CHEAP LODGING-HOUSES, 82

CHAPTER IX.

CHINATOWN, 92

CHAPTER X.

JEWTOWN, 104

CHAPTER XI.

THE SWEATERS OF JEWTOWN, 120

CHAPTER XII.

THE BOHEMIANS--TENEMENT-HOUSE CIGARMAKING, 136

CHAPTER XIII.

THE COLOR LINE IN NEW YORK, 148

CHAPTER XIV.

THE COMMON HERD, 159

CHAPTER XV.

THE PROBLEM OF THE CHILDREN, 179

CHAPTER XVI.

WAIFS OF THE CITY'S SLUMS, 187

CHAPTER XVII.

THE STREET ARAB, 196

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE REIGN OF RUM, 210

CHAPTER XIX.

THE HARVEST OF TARES, 217

CHAPTER XX.

THE WORKING GIRLS OF NEW YORK, 234

CHAPTER XXI.

PAUPERISM IN THE TENEMENTS, 243

CHAPTER XXII.

THE WRECKS AND THE WASTE, 255

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE MAN WITH THE KNIFE, 263

CHAPTER XXIV.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE, 268

CHAPTER XXV.

HOW THE CASE STANDS, 282

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

GOTHAM COURT, _Frontispiece_

PAGE

HELL'S KITCHEN AND SEBASTOPOL, 6

TENEMENT OF 1863, FOR TWELVE FAMILIES ON EACH FLAT, 12

TENEMENT OF THE OLD STYLE. BIRTH OF THE AIR-SHAFT, 18

AT THE CRADLE OF THE TENEMENT.--DOORWAY OF AN OLD-FASHIONED DWELLING ON CHERRY HILL, 30

UPSTAIRS IN BLINDMAN'S ALLEY, 34

AN OLD REAR-TENEMENT IN ROOSEVELT STREET, 45

IN THE HOME OF AN ITALIAN RAG-PICKER, JERSEY STREET, 51

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