

MRS. MAYBRICK'S OWN STORY.
MY FIFTEEN LOST YEARS

Florence Elizabeth Maybrick



ROUTLEDGE/THOEMMES PRESS

This edition published by Routledge/Thoemmes Press, 2000

Routledge/Thoemmes Press
11 New Fetter Lane
London EC4P 4EE

Routledge / Thoemmes Press is a joint imprint
of Routledge Ltd and Thoemmes Ltd

The State of Prisons in Britain, 1775–1905
8 Volumes : ISBN 0 415 23127 2

Volume 1 : ISBN 0 415 23128 0

Volume 2 : ISBN 0 415 23129 9

Volume 3 : ISBN 0 415 23130 2

Volume 4 : ISBN 0 415 23131 0

Volume 5 : ISBN 0 415 23132 9

Volume 6 : ISBN 0 415 23133 7

Volume 7 : ISBN 0 415 23134 5

Volume 8 : ISBN 0 415 23135 3

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A CIP record of this title is available from the British Library

Publisher's Note

The Publisher has gone to great lengths to ensure the quality of this reprint but points out that some imperfections in the original book may be apparent.

This book is printed on acid-free paper, sewn, and cased in a durable buckram cloth.

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FLORENCE ELIZABETH MAYBRICK

MRS. MAYBRICK'S
OWN STORY

MY FIFTEEN LOST YEARS

By

FLORENCE ELIZABETH MAYBRICK



FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY

NEW YORK AND LONDON

1905

To

ALL THOSE FRIENDS IN AMERICA AND ENGLAND

WHO, WITH UNWAVERING FAITH IN MY
INNOCENCE, WORKED STEADFASTLY FOR MY FREEDOM,
THIS BOOK IS GRATEFULLY DEDICATED

FLORENCE ELIZABETH MAYBRICK.

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THE STATE OF PRISONS IN BRITAIN,
1775–1905

Volume 8

Edited and Introduced by
W. J. Forsythe
University of Exeter

FOREWORD

THE writing of this book has been to me no joyful task, as its making has been at the expense of much-needed rest and peace of mind. In returning to my dear native land after a long imprisonment, I cherished the hope that I might as quietly as possible be permitted to take up the threads of outward existence so cruelly broken, little dreaming that trials hardly less grievous than those left behind awaited me; for no sooner had I touched these hospitable shores, when I was met by the fear-inspiring cry, "You must write a book—you must give the world an account of your sufferings"—as if one could never suffer enough. My well-meaning friends could hardly have known what they were asking in forcing upon me a mental return to the

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dread past. Solitary confinement in Working Prison (as the reader may learn from these pages) was not such an elysium that one should voluntarily desire to hark back to it, nor is penal servitude in Aylesbury an Arcadian dream. While within their grim walls I did my best to exclude from thought the world without; and now that I am once again in the world (though scarcely of it), my one desire to shut out all the abhorrent things which so-called "prison life" stands for has thus far not only failed of realization, but, under conditions even more trying than the repressive prison régime (because of the free and happy life all about, which it seemed to poor me that I had some right to share), I have been compelled by force of circumstance to return to my cast-off prison shell, and live all the old heart-and-brain-crushing life over again. However, my second "trial and imprisonment," like the first, is at last