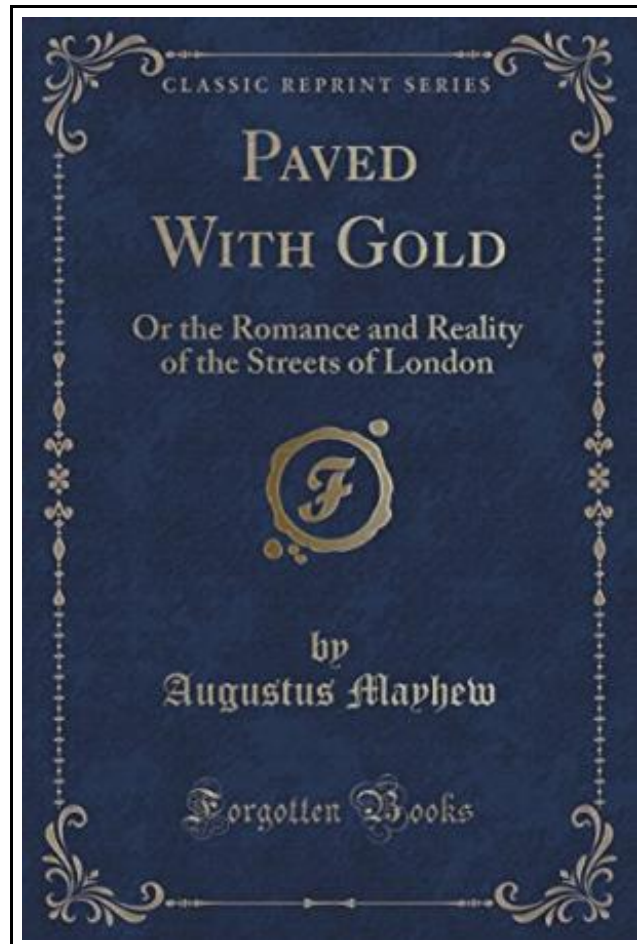


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Paved With Gold: Or the Romance and Reality of the Streets of London It has often struck me that if a truthful account were written of the miseries of criminal life, it would, by destroying the fancied romance of wickedness, have a quicker effect in checking juvenile depravity than any moral appeals that could be made to the understandings of the evil-disposed. Crime has now become a trade. Cunning is the only capital needed. The youths who take to this desperate calling are of such a nature that they are beyond a sense of danger. They would carve their names on gallows-wood as calmly as an Eton boy disfigures his desk. They are insensible to the fear of the law. Of course, crime means - unrestrained selfishness, or, in other words, the gratification of desires, regardless of the misery the indulgence may inflict on others. There are many of the leaden-souled who, if crime were treated as a business speculation, - if the chances of profit and loss were as thoroughly weighed as when a merchant studies his ventures, - might be impressed with the folly of the risk, and, swayed by their selfishness, take to honesty as the better policy. As I have said, these wicked of the world have no fear of the law, but they have a full appreciation of personal advantages. Prove to them that the rewards of virtue are by one penny higher than those of vice, and they will, with marvellous rapidity, alter their courses. If they are once coaxed into this passive honesty, the schoolmaster may, with good prospects of success, commence his work. Of one thing I...



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