



## William Penn: An Historical Biography, from New Sources; With an Extra Chapter on the Macaulay Charges (Classic Reprint)

By William Hepworth Dixon

Forgotten Books, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from William Penn: An Historical Biography, From New Sources; With an Extra Chapter on the Macaulay Charges William Penn has been called a mythical rather than an historical personage. The accounts given of him by his professed biographers - Besse, Clarkson, Weems, and Lewis - are sufficiently vague, lifeless, and transcendental to merit such a censure. By far the best and most complete of these works is that by Clarkson; but it has serious defects. Beyond a reverential sympathy with Penn's religious ideas, the modern philanthropist had no advantages for the task he undertook. He was profoundly unacquainted with the history of the period; he copied the ignorance of Besse and others without misgiving and without acknowledgment. Of the families of Penn and Springett he knew absolutely nothing; of their fortunes and misfortunes, though daily affecting his hero's life and character, no trace appears in his pages. He had read only a few books, and those were of the commonest kind. Of the vast collections of MS. papers in the British Museum, in the...



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