

# New Zealand Tablet



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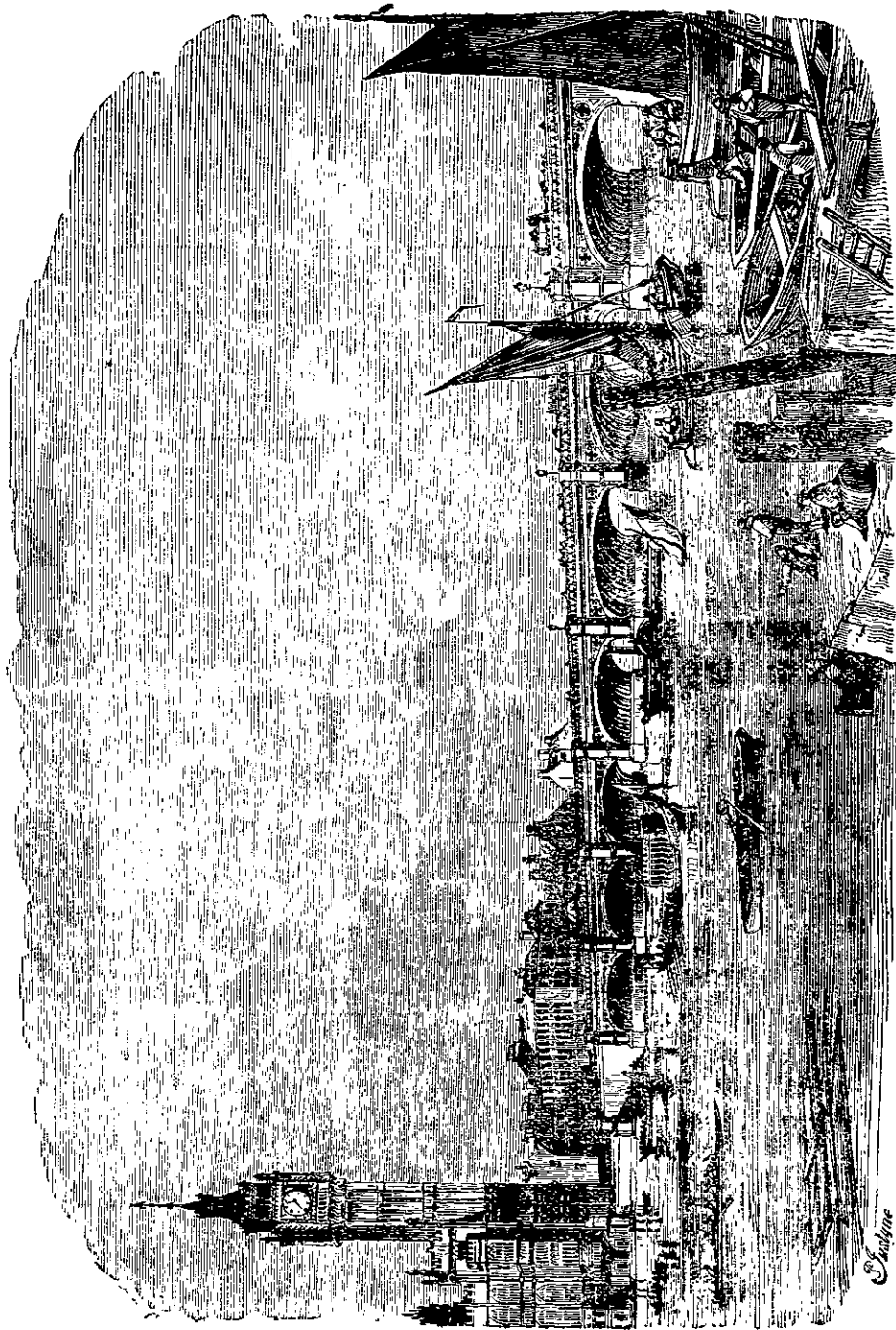
PRICE 6D.

## WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

FROM the earliest times the river Thames has been the "silent highway" of the people who have been dwellers on its banks. The coracle of the Briton, the galley of the Roman, and those stout vessels that dared the stormy seas of the north, whilst their pilots sped out on their mission of war and conquest, have each in turn held possession of its waters. To-day it suggests to us a thousand recollections reaching back to the dim years of old, and embracing thoughts as widely separated as those which are attendant on the festivities of a royal water-party from those evoked by the rash deed of, alas! too many who have plunged into this stream with the wild cry in their hearts—

" Anywhere, anywhere, out of the world !"

But the Thames at Westminster recalls to us, moreover, wise and holy acts performed by "men of renown" in the olden times. It was here that Canute rebuked the flattering spirit of his courtiers by bidding the waves to retreat, which nevertheless, "cast forth some part of



their water towards him, and came up to his thighs." And close by here stands the Abbey founded by Edward the Confessor, concerning which a biographer of the Saint writes:—  
 "The devout king destined to God that place, both for that it was near unto the famous and wealthy City of London, and also had a pleasant situation amongst fruitful fields lying round about it, with the principal river running hard by, bringing in from all parts of the world great variety of wares and merchandisc of all sorts to the city adjoining; but chiefly for the love of the Chief Apostle, whom he revered with a special and singular affection."