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THE WAR
of
THE WORLDS

H.G. WELLS



TAUCHNITZ EDITION

COLLECTION OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN AUTHORS

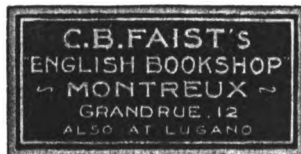
VOL. 3274

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

BY

H. G. WELLS

IN ONE VOLUME



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WAR OF THE WORLDS

BY

H. G. WELLS,

AUTHOR OF

"THE TIME MACHINE," "THE STOLEN BACILLUS," ETC.

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LEIPZIG

BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

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**“But who shall dwell in these Worlds if they be inhabited?
. . . Are we or they Lords of the World? . . . And how
are all things made for man?”**

KEPLER (quoted in *The Anatomy of Melancholy*).

TO

MY BROTHER

F R A N K W E L L S,

THIS RENDERING OF HIS IDEA.

VI.

THE HEAT-RAY IN THE CHOBHAM ROAD.

It is still a matter of wonder how the Martians are able to slay men so swiftly and so silently. Many think that in some way they are able to generate an intense heat in a chamber of practically absolute non-conductivity. This intense heat they project in a parallel beam against any object they choose by means of a polished parabolic mirror of unknown composition—much as the parabolic mirror of a lighthouse projects a beam of light. But no one has absolutely proved these details. However it is done, it is certain that a beam of heat is the essence of the matter. Heat, and invisible, instead of visible light. Whatever is combustible flashes into flame at its touch, lead runs like water, it softens iron, cracks and melts glass, and when it falls upon water incontinently that explodes into steam.

That night nearly forty people lay under the starlight about the pit, charred and distorted beyond recognition, and all night long the common from Horsell to Maybury was deserted, and brightly ablaze.