

# **THE ALIEN INVASION**

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The alien invasion by W. H. Wilkins

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**W. H. WILKINS**

**THE ALIEN  
INVASION**



*SOCIAL QUESTIONS OF TO-DAY*

EDITED BY H. DE B. GIBBINS, M.A.

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# THE ALIEN INVASION

BY

W. H. WILKINS, B.A.

*(Clare College, Cambridge)*

AUTHOR OF A MONOGRAPH UPON "THE TRAFFIC IN ITALIAN CHILDREN"

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE

BY THE

RIGHT REVEREND THE BISHOP OF BEDFORD

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TO

*The Right Honourable the Earl of Dunraven, B.P.,*

THE LEADER OF

THE MOVEMENT FOR PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE

AGAINST THE INVASION OF THE DESTITUTE

AND WORTHLESS OF OTHER LANDS,

*This Little Volume is Dedicated,*

IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

OF MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT, AND MANY KINDNESSES.



## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

My object in writing this little book has been to collect together in a popular and readable form the main facts connected with the question of destitute immigration. I have endeavoured to set forth as concisely as possible the evils consequent upon our present system, and to place before the public the leading arguments in favour of some moderate and judicious restriction of the influx of the destitute and worthless of other countries. In doing so, I have studiously avoided identifying this important question with any particular party, or any particular creed. It is a matter which concerns the nation as a whole, and it is one in which men of all creeds and parties—Jew or Christian, Liberal or Conservative—may unite together for good. The advisability of restricting our present system of unchecked destitute immigration is a matter upon which there exists considerable difference of opinion. In giving expression to my earnest convictions, I ask for that same indulgence which I willingly extend to those who may differ from my conclusions.

W. H. WILKINS.

15B, ARLINGTON STREET, S.W.

*January 1892.*



## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

I HAVE been asked to write a short preface to a work in which the author proposes to afford the public information with respect to the immigration of destitute aliens into this country. He will discuss the evil incident to an immigration that is practically uncontrolled; and he will suggest the lines in which, in his opinion, remedial legislation should be promoted.

The subject is one of very great importance, and I am confident it will be approached by the writer in a dispassionate spirit. He must know that he will fail of his object unless it is perfectly clear he is not influenced by any prejudice against the race to which the greater part of the destitute immigrants are known to belong. He will make it abundantly clear there is no desire or intention to forbid the man who is persecuted, either for his religious creed or his political opinions, from finding an asylum among us.

It is the opinion of many who have given to this subject much consideration, that the destitute foreigners who come to England in such numbers exchange into a condition that is hardly less tolerable, than that from which they have fled in the lands of their birth. It is said they exercise an influence that is morally and socially to the hurt of those among whom they come to dwell. It is contended that they injuriously compete with our own people in the labour market. It is often urged that they compel our people to seek a home and employment in other lands, because of the glut they cause in the labour market, and because of their readiness to accept wages and to be content with