

**THE BURDEN OF
BABYLON, OR, THE
SOCIAL INCUBUS: AND
OTHER VERS DE SOCIÉTÉ**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649354436

The Burden of Babylon, Or, The Social Incubus: And Other Vers de Société by Hugh E. M. Stutfield

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Cover @ 2017

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HUGH E. M. STUTFIELD

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OR
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THE SOCIAL INCUBUS

AND OTHER *VERS DE SOCIÉTÉ*

BY

HUGH E. M. STUTFIELD

Societas societatum—omnia Societas

LONDON

EDWARD ARNOLD

41 & 43 MADDOX STREET, BOND STREET, W.

1905

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CONTENTS

THE BURDEN OF BABYLONDON:		PAGE
I. A SONG OF LAMENTATION	- - - -	9
II. INTROSPECTIVE	- - - -	16
III. THE MODERN SYBARIS	- - - -	18
IV. THE GENIUS OF RÉCLAME	- - - -	23
V. THE DÉBUTANTE	- - - -	26
VI. TEMPUS EDAX	- - - -	29
VII. POLITE CONVERSATION	- - - -	32
VIII. RELIGION À LA MODE	- - - -	34
IX. THE CULT OF BEAUTY	- - - -	36
X. THE WAY WE LIVE NOW	- - - -	38
XI. THE CLIMBER'S PATH TO SOCIAL FAME	- - - -	41
XII. POLITICS AND THE UPPER CRUST	- - - -	43
XIII. "AVE, SOCIETAS! MAGNA ES, ET PRÆVALEBIS!"	- - - -	47
COLUMBIA VICTRIX	- - - -	51
A LOOK AHEAD	- - - -	63

1
2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12
13

14

15

16

THE BURDEN OF BABYLONDON

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I

A SONG OF LAMENTATION

"... the most acute attack of Social Sickness that the world has probably ever seen . . . so charged is the air with the bacilli, so hard is it to escape infection."—MR. E. F. BENSON in the *Fortnightly Review*.

I

THE nation's moral health, I learn,
Its Galens note with grave concern :
In weighty journals and Reviews,
 In tomes of formidable thickness,
We read the most alarming news
 Of epidemic Social Sickness.
O'er Smart Society's loss of tone
Rises a universal moan ;
Each week some horrid new complaint
Infects the Classes with its taint,
And many a wandering bacillus
Empoisons, when it doesn't kill, us.