

# **THE LOGIC OF PROHIBITION**

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The logic of prohibition by Matthew S. Hughes

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**MATTHEW S. HUGHES**

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# THE LOGIC OF PROHIBITION

BY

MATT. S. HUGHES, D. D., LL. D.



UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

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TO VINO  
ABBIATELLA

## FOREWORD

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These studies are the outgrowth of practical campaign experience. They are designed to place before the reader, citizen or advocate, the salient points of the prohibition side of the great controversy at the smallest expense of time and labor. The subjects were suggested by the opposition in speeches, pamphlets and joint debates. The discussion has to do with principles and therefore makes little use of statistics. These change from year to year and are always available from other sources. In the long conflict the lines of battle are continually shifted and the methods of defense frequently changed. For this reason new preparation is needed for each campaign. A series of newspaper articles, some of which were circulated as pamphlets, brought such numerous requests for publication in permanent form that this little book is given to the public in the hope that it will prove helpful. The author desires to acknowledge the kindly services rendered in publication by Mr. Charles H. Prisk, editor and publisher of The Pasadena Star.

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## The Logic of Events

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HERE is a logic of facts as well as a logic of words. The prohibition movement, being practical and not theoretical, can be understood and appreciated only in the light of its historical development. The great temperance reform as we know it today is grounded upon two fundamental principles—total abstinence for the individual and legal prohibition for the state. The first principle deals with the drink habit and the second with the drink traffic; the one is a personal question and the other a social problem. Theoretically, there is no necessary connection between the two, as men may abstain from intoxicants in the absence of state prohibition and there are rumors of personal indulgence in certain sections in spite of prohibitory laws. Practically, however, the two are so intimately related that the twofold plan

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of campaign is essential to success, because the drink habit supports the traffic and the drink traffic perpetuates the habit. It is interesting to note that, as we shall see, neither of these principles characterized the great reform in its beginnings. The temperance forces were reluctantly brought to their espousal only by the pressure of circumstances. They represent conclusions to which men of light and leading were forced by the logic of events.

The honor of inaugurating the prohibition movement belongs to the United States and the nineteenth century. The conflict was impending at the close of the eighteenth century, but the eyes of men were holden to the vastness of its proportions. The movement sprang into being in response to a desperate need. The vice of drunkenness characterized the early years of the American republic. Two things combined to aggravate this national condition. Seven years of war with its demoralizing influences had led many influential leaders into dan-