

# **AMERICANS IN EUROPE**

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Americans in Europe by G. Monroe Royce

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**G. MONROE ROYCE**

**AMERICANS  
IN EUROPE**



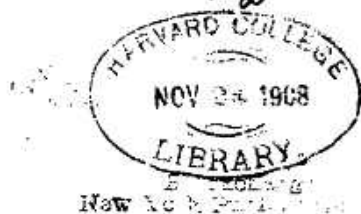
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## PREFACE.

THE exceptional opportunities I have had for observing and studying the life and character of "Americans in Europe" have forced upon me a feeling of fiduciary responsibility. That is to say, seeing what I have seen, and knowing what I know, I feel that I have no right to be silent, and am consequently impelled, by a keen sense of duty, to speak out with no uncertain voice and in no ambiguous words. But it is useless for me to speak unless I can make myself heard, and when facts have a most resonant voice of their own, it seems to me a pity to weaken that voice and the lesson it would teach by any dulness or feebleness of utterance.

I believe that this book will be of value—not only to "Americans in Europe," but to my compatriots at home and to society in general, and I wish very much that it may be as widely read as possible, to insure which I have first of all

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endeavored to make it as readable as possible. Dulness is quite enough nowadays to damn anybody or anything. It is the most hopeless, most fatal, verdict that can be passed upon any book. The public plainly tells the author that it will forgive his ignorance, his inaccuracy, his want of high purpose—or any purpose for that matter—if he be only readable, that is, if he be not dull. In meeting this public demand facts are often regarded as being more of a hindrance than of a help; and serious thought, if there be any such, must needs be served in very small quantities or very carefully disguised.

Whatever is now offered to the intellectual palate must be highly spiced and tasty. We no longer relish the natural juices and simple flavors of plain natural and moral food, and we call in the French literary cook with his pungent sauces to tempt our jaded and indifferent appetites.

We read a little of everything and not much of anything, and what we do read must be served to us in large type and in small quantities. We take our general literature in paragraphs and epigrams, our history in the faintest outlines; and if we were to act upon Shakespeare's advice and study only what we most

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affect, I fear that Shakespeare himself would be left unread.

It is quite useless to cry out against this state of things—we must accept the fact and write accordingly, if we can. After all, I do not see why goodness and dulness should go together, and as a simple matter of fact they do not go together. If there is one thing that this present generation will not stand, it is the masquerading of ignorance, of stupidity, and hypocrisy, under the guise of dignity, earnestness, and piety.

The remarkable thing is that dulness has succeeded so long in forcing the world to take it at its own enormous intellectual and moral estimate.

At the head and front of almost every profession has stood some blatant pedagogue who has persuaded mankind to take his dulness for depth. This pedant is still heard from the pulpit, from the superior law courts, and from the learned (?) reviews. The libraries of the world are full of his unreadable volumes. There is but one place, so far as I know, where he does not and cannot flourish, namely in journalism. It is quite impossible for him to secure, or at all events to hold, a position on