

**THE MORAL CRUSADER, WILLIAM
LLOYD GARRISON: A
BIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY. FOUNDED
ON "THE STORY OF GARRISON'S
LIFE TOLD BY HIS CHILDREN"**

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The Moral Crusader, William Lloyd Garrison: A Biographical Essay. Founded on "The Story of Garrison's Life Told by His Children" by Goldwin Smith

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GOLDWIN SMITH

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Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

THE MORAL CRUSADER
WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON

A Biographical Essay

FOUNDED ON

*"THE STORY OF GARRISON'S LIFE TOLD
BY HIS CHILDREN"*

BY
GOLDWIN SMITH, D.C.L.

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TO THE
AUTHORS

THE MORAL CRUSADER, W. L. GARRISON.

INTRODUCTION.

THERE is sometimes a crisis in the history of a nation when a man is urgently needed to prick the national conscience on a moral question. The man need not be supremely wise after the fashion of earthly wisdom, nor supremely strong after the fashion of earthly strength. But he must be himself an impersonation of conscience. He must be perfectly pure and disinterested, free not only from ambition and cupidity, but from vanity, from mere love of excitement, from self-seeking of every kind, as well as brave, energetic, persevering, and endowed with a voice which can make itself heard. Such a crisis was the ascendancy of the Slave Power in the United States, and such a man was William Lloyd Garrison. His character is interesting in its weakness as in its strength, and the contemplation of it is cheering, as it shows what a fund of moral force a society sound at the core always possesses, dark as may be the apparent outlook, and how that force

may be called forth, perhaps from the most unsuspected quarter, in the hour of need.

Garrison's life has been told by his children with a loving care and minuteness which make the four portly volumes through which it extends a model of biographical industry. In those volumes are comprised the archives of the moral as distinguished from the political movement against slavery. They claim a place in all libraries of American history, but to libraries their bulk confines them. It fell to the lot of the present writer to notice them in two numbers of *Macmillan's Magazine*, and the interest which he was led to feel in the subject, combined with the reminiscences awakened in his own mind by their narrative, induced him to compile this little volume. More than a compilation the volume can hardly pretend to be, since for its material it is almost entirely beholden to the larger work, so far as the facts are concerned. The opinions, of course, are the author's own and formed from his own point of view, which is that of an Anglo-Canadian who sympathized with the American friends of the Anti-Slavery cause. The authors of the larger work have so far extended their confidence to the present writer as to sanction his use of the materials collected by them: they are in no way responsible for his opinions. In forming his estimate of the character with which he had to deal he has had the ad-

vantage, on one side, of the memoir on "Garrison and His Times," written by Mr. Oliver Johnson, one of the foremost, ablest, and staunchest of Garrison's comrades in the great contest, and, on the other, of the "Life of James G. Birney," written by Mr. William Birney, also a most competent exponent of his own side of the case. He has, of course, availed himself of the general authorities for the history of the time.

To the military heroism of the struggle against the Slave Power, literary monuments, as well as monuments of marble, numerous and splendid, are being raised. Let the moral heroism also have its due. The interest of its history, if less thrilling, is not less deep.

In dealing with the story of Garrison's life,* an Anglo-Canadian writer is not encroaching on American ground. Garrison was recognized as a fellow-laborer with Wilberforce, Clarkson, and Buxton. He belongs not only to the United States, but to England, as the great emancipating nation, and to Canada, as the asylum of the slave.

* William Lloyd Garrison [1805-1879]: *The Story of His Life Told by His Children*. Vols. I-IV., 8vo. New York: The Century Co., 1885-89.

