

THE DRINK TRAFFIC IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: ITS GROWTH AND INFLUENCE

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The Drink Traffic in the Nineteenth Century: Its Growth and Influence by David Lewis

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DAVID LEWIS

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THE DRINK TRAFFIC

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NINETEENTH CENTURY:

Its Growth and Influence.

BY

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PREFACE.

The aim of the present work is to direct attention to the conflicting social forces which have been at work in this country during the present century. Prominent among these is the Drink Traffic, the growth of which has been as remarkable as its influence has been extensive. The effect has been to necessitate increased activity on the part of those forces which are closely allied to civilisation, and to call into existence many others for the correction of National abuses, and the mitigation of social evils. At no former period have moral enterprises, social experiments, and religious organisations been more popularly and effectively prosecuted.

To what extent the vast machinery at work for the mitigation of human suffering, and the elevation of the people, is accomplishing the desired end, is a subject upon which great diversity of opinion exists. There are few

PREFACE.

things more hurtful to the cause of National reform than that the true state of affairs should either be under-estimated or exaggerated. In the former case, the tendency is to invest the agitation with a delusive atmosphere, most congenial to inaction and comparative indifference, and in the latter case to supply excuses for despondency and unbelief among those engaged in the great work of moral and social emancipation. The object which the Author has in view is to guard against either of these extremes, and, by a direct appeal to facts, to exhibit the true state of affairs, and endeavour to point out the duty of all in the present critical crisis of the nation.

D. L.

EDINBURGH,
1st January 1885.

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