

**OUR NATION'S
PERIL AND THE
WAY OF ESCAPE**

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Our Nation's Peril and the Way of Escape by John Moffat

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JOHN MOFFAT

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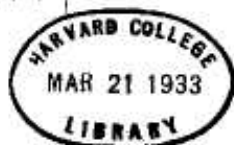
OUR
NATION'S PERIL
AND
THE WAY OF ESCAPE.

BY
PROF. JOHN MOFFAT.

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS little work has been written by the request of the Temperance and Prohibition Committee of Chester county, Pa., who, desirous of having a small work adapted for general circulation, requested the writer to prepare in condensed form for publication the substance of a series of lectures lately delivered in Chester county. As they desired it to be small, so that it could be circulated at a trifling expense, we have experienced great difficulty in presenting the subject in a satisfactory manner in so limited a space; we could do no more than give a mere outline of the thoughts presented in the lectures. We have attempted to make the work suggestive, though not exhaustive. As its object is to awaken an interest in the cause of Temperance, and quicken our people to a sense of the dangers to which we are exposed, we have concluded that the object in view would be best attained by adding the testimony of others also. We have, therefore, inserted two very able articles from the pen of Dr. Stebbins, and also a very eloquent and earnest discourse by the Rev. Canon Farrar.

The articles by Dr. Sumner Stebbins will be found worthy of a careful perusal. They embody sound practical views, set forth in so clear and concise a manner that they cannot fail to carry conviction to

every candid mind. The discourse of Canon Farrar is not only valuable on account of its intrinsic merit, but is especially interesting to us as testimony from a very high authority as to the soundness of the principles advocated by the Prohibitionists in America. It shows, too, that the thinkers of Great Britain are alarmed by the perils to which their nation is exposed by the liquor traffic. Strong drink seems to be the special curse of the *Anglo-Saxon race*. We had written the first chapter of *Our Nation's Peril*, when our attention was called to this eloquent discourse; we determined to insert it as the best endorsement we could have of the soundness of our views, and that our words of warning were words of truth and soberness and not the utterances of a dreaming alarmist. We trust the words of Canon Farrar may sink deep into the hearts of our people; for what he says of his country is true also of ours: "No nation, no individual, can thrive so long as it is under the dominion of a besetting sin. It must conquer, or be *conquered*; it must destroy it, or be destroyed by it; it must strike at the sources of it, or be stricken down by it into the dust."

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PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.

IF ever our country is to be delivered from the curse of strong drink, it must be by the legal suppression of the liquor traffic.

Experience teaches us that however earnest our efforts to check the evil, and however successful we may be in persuading men to abandon their cups, and practice individual temperance, this after all is only a palliative, not a cure. While it is a grand work of Christian charity, worthy of our best efforts, and commands our sympathy and coöperation, yet we cannot base our hopes of ultimate triumph upon the reformation of drunkards. We must reform the usages of society that made them such. So long as the drinking usages are respectable, men will drink, and so long as men drink many will become the victims of the abnormal and depraved appetite. The drinking-usage will retain its respectability so long as the liquor traffic is recognized by law to be a legitimate business. While the stumbling blocks are in the way the weak will fall, and these stumbling blocks must be removed by the strong—the weak will not, and cannot remove them. This must be done by the united effort of the people as citizens. The suppression of vice and crime by the persuasive influence of higher motives and a pure example, belongs to the department of morals, but the prohibition of