

**CIVILIZATION'S  
INFERNO; OR, STUDIES  
IN THE SOCIAL CELLAR**

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Civilization's inferno; or, studies in the social cellar by B. O. Flower

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**B. O. FLOWER**

**CIVILIZATION'S  
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# CIVILIZATION'S INFERNO;

OR,

STUDIES IN THE SOCIAL CELLAR,

BY

B. O. FLOWER,

*Author of "Lessons Learned from Other Lives," etc.*

"Man's inhumanity to man  
Makes countless millions mourn."



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## PREFACE.

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IN sending out this little work I am actuated solely by a desire to arouse earnest men and women to action by presenting deplorable conditions existing at our very door which are a crying reproach to the Republic.

I appreciate my inability to adequately picture the horrors of the social cellar or to portray the infinite misery which is the lot of tens of thousands of struggling souls in the full blaze of our boasted christian civilization.

It would require a pen far more powerful than my own to properly describe the depths of want, wretchedness and degradation to be seen in the populous slums of cultured, palacedecked, church-jewelled Boston.

My original purpose was to strike out all suggestive hints from the earlier pages and incorporate them in two chapters, one dealing with palliative measures; the other presenting fundamental social reforms. On mature deliberation, however, I have decided that this treatment, though more artistic, would be far less effective. The suggestive hints thrown out in a few words, while striking object lessons are before the mental vision of the reader, will be more impressive than a longer discussion removed from the suggestive scenes. Again, I believe it is important to reiterate these truths in the presence of each of the various manifestations of misery and social inequality present to-day, as only in this way can we arouse from its lethargy a sleeping conscience which renders such conditions possible. It has not been my purpose to enter into any elaborate exposition of the principles involved in

## PREFACE.

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what I am persuaded are fundamental reformativo measures or to describe at length the many noble palliative works of which I hint from time to time, as this work is rather a series of informal essays on life in the social cellar, written to arrest the attention and, if possible, to turn the mind of the reader to the many noble and exhaustive works dealing with social problems which have appeared in recent years.

In arranging and enlarging these chapters I have found it impossible to bestow the time I desired to spend upon them, owing to duties which demanded almost every moment at my command, therefore they are not as finished as I could wish. If, however, they touch the heart and kindle a love-fire sufficiently intense to burn up selfishness and awaken the divine spark in other hearts, if they lead even a few persons to consecrate more fully life and love to their fellow-men, I shall be content.

B. O. FLOWER.

Boston, Mass.,

Feb. 1st., 1893.



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## INTRODUCTION.