SOME AMERICAN EVILS AND THEIR REMEDIES

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GEO. F. HALL

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Trieste

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AND

THEIR REMEDIES

A SERIES OF

FIVE SHORT RELIGIO-SECULAR SUNDAY EVENING LECTURES DELIVERED FROM THE PULPIT OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, EMPORIA, KAN., IN THE SUMMER OF 1889

BY

GEO. F. HALL.

"There ought to be a system of manners in every nation which a well formed mind would be disposed to relish. To make us love our country, our country ought to be lovely."—BURKE, "*Reflections of the French Revolution.*"

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DEDICATION.

To whom more kind and appreciative could the author inscribe this little work than to his FATHER? A humble man, a loyal citizen, a faithful friend, a noble Christian—long, long may he live, a blessing to his children, an example to his neighbors, an honor to his country. May his declining years be freighted with the Saviour's tenderest gifts.

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INTRODUCTORY.

"My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring!"

—SAMUEL F. SMITH.

AMERICA is to-day the king of nations. Though youngest among the giants of earth, our nation is the most intelligent, the most wealthy, and, consequently, the most powerful of all. Herein lies our danger. The great nations of antiquity did not decline and fall while ignorant, poor, and weak, but after they had attained to mightiness, and in that mightiness waxed corrupt. History repeats itself. To the student of the times no fact is more patent than that America is rapidly becoming America's worst enemy.

It is desired in these five short lectures to point out a few of America's evils, and to propose what shall seem to be the most certain and speedy remedy for each. The author does not pretend to be exhaustive, but simply suggestive. He aims at an agitation. If he shall succeed in arousing one thoughtful mind to an appreciative sense of the awful dangers threatening our national fabric, his work shall not have been in vain.

What a glorious land is ours! What a noble gov-

'ernment! One feels like quoting the words of Byron in "Childe Harold:"

> "Oh, Christ! it is a goodly sight to see
> What heaven hath done for this delicious land."

God forbid that we should take one backward step! There is too much at stake. We must not falter in the path of duty. We must eradicate these growing evils. Oh, America--

> "Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
> Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
> Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
> Are all with thee, are all with thee."
>
> —LONGFELLOW.

In the preparation of these lectures the author has consulted various authorities. Among the most helpful were "Our country," by Dr. Josiah Strong, and "Isms, New and Old," by Dr. Geo. C. Lorimer. From these, and other valuable works, much has been "absorbed." In many instances due credit is given for borrowed facts, but not in all. Should an author attempt to give credit for everything borrowed his book would be little better than a cyclopædia of references. It is believed that the average reader in this day and age wants results, not processes. Here are some of the results of a conscientious study of the questions before us. May each reader rise from the perusal of these pages, as the author rises from their perparation, with that earnest petition expressed in a hymn by Dwight:

> "God bless our native land!
> Firm may she ever stand
> Through storm and night;
> When the wild tempests rave,
> Ruler of wind and wave,
> Do thou our country save
> By thy great might.