

## THE MORAL CRUSADER, W. L. GARRISON.

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### 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.