

I.
**The Moral Dangers of the Age : how
to Escape them.**

My unknown friend, do not, I pray you, regard the following pages as an officious attempt to preach to you, and to check that innocent mirth and merriment which is good for every man. You know that the young merchant will gladly take hints from the experienced man of business ; the young lawyer and medical student will thank an older and successful practitioner for friendly counsels ; and the young art-student will carefully listen to the precepts of his master. I have no right to address you except this : I have watched life thoughtfully. I have observed how some young men rose to honour, and others sunk to infamy ; and I sometimes receive thanks from men, who in different parts of the kingdom occupy distinguished positions, and