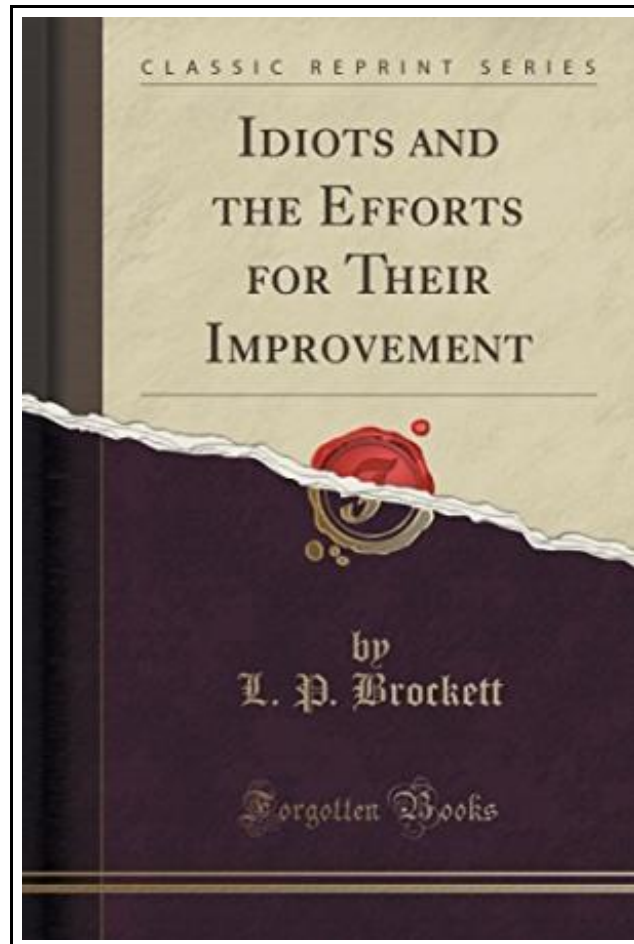


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Idiots and the Efforts for Their Improvement Nor did Christianity, in the first few centuries after its advent, grapple with these forms of wretchedness. It did, indeed, with praiseworthy courage, assail and often overthrow gigantic wrongs. At its stern behest, the gladiatorial contests were discontinued, and the fierce thirst for blood which had so long characterized the Roman populace, was no longer gratified with the sight of the death struggles of innocent men, contending, for their amusement, with wild beasts, or brutal savages. Under its more humane sway the sick stranger was no longer left to die in loneliness and agony, for the dews of death were wiped from his brow by the fair hands of woman, now first taught her mission on earth, that of ministering angel; the poor slave no longer clanked his chain in despair, for Christian sympathy had reached him in his low estate, and the wealth of Christian men, and even the endowments of Christian churches were sacrificed without regret, to secure his freedom. But though the due meed of praise should not be withheld, for these acts of Christian philanthropy, the people were too recently emerged from the selfishness and heartlessness of heathenism, to think of succoring those who proffered no claim for aid, save in their vacant countenances and loathsome habits. And when, in the dark ages, the spirit of philanthropy awakened in the early church, by the teachings of the Apostles and their immediate successors, had subsided into an apathy and indifference, second only to the cold cruelty of paganism, it was not to be expected that those whose claims had failed to move the warm Christian...



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