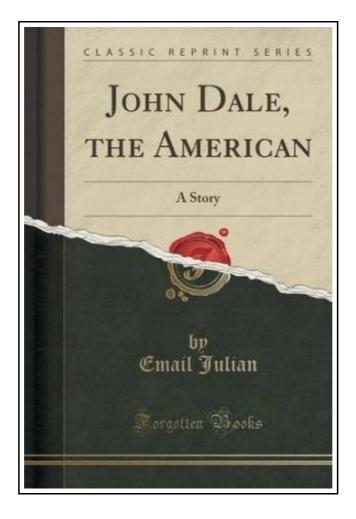
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from John Dale, the American: A Story The human mind is moved at this epoch by two great incentives. One is to shape all conduct in the manner indicated by the church, so that a more delightful existence can be attained after death. The other is to build up knowledge out of the materials that can be seen, by the exercise of a free mental activity. The first anticipating celestial enjoyments that will last for all eternity, makes, consequently, but little account of the world s progress. The other exerts itself for this world alone, making men wiser, more prosperous in life, modifying the civil laws that oppress them, unfolding the workings of nature, and exhibiting innumerable wonders and beauties hitherto unseen. One of these great incentives has moved and controlled society for many centuries, and has inflicted upon it during that long period a self-constituted gloom, with nothing in recompense but a promise, of whose fulfillment there is not the slightest shadow of certainty. But little more than a single century has elapsed since the other great purpose has come to do its work in the world, and already the substantial benefits it has achieved for mankind are marvels to witness. These two human purposes are antagonistic in principle and effect. They have always waged war with one another. Where one prevails, the other must subside. One destroys what the other feeds on. One is the purely humane sentiment embodied in the inclination to make men hold a more exalted opinion of themselves, and to modify society so that its ills and discomforts shall be reduced to the lowest minimum, and while the other goes...

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