

wishing for a more Christian society, establishes some regular public worship, and thus sets on foot a humanizing influence. A new public opinion is created, favorable to order, civility, and peace. In the course of a few years the aspect of affairs is wholly altered, the rudeness and violence are gone, and are replaced by habits of sobriety and decency. Now, in this case, the Church, with its institution of worship, does not act as a police, restraining the outbreak of crime, but as an educational influence, correcting the tendencies to crime. In this instance we have given the history of what has actually occurred again and again, in numberless instances throughout the Western States, within the last half-century.

But not only does public worship tend to educate the community by awakening and developing religious ideas, but it also cultivates humane feelings, brings the different classes of society near to each other, makes one common platform on which all can stand together, and so counteracts continually the tendencies to separate and isolated life. People who lived all other days apart from each other, whose lives are narrowed to little rounds of domestic duty, who see only small family groups and cliques, come into church on the Lord's day, and feel themselves for an hour at one with all classes of men. This hour, though only bringing them into an external contact, and no intimate communion, does much to emancipate them from a narrow and too individual life. All professions, conditions, characters, are side by side engaged in the same serious occupation. Political opponents here forget their disputes, — rivals in fashion, competitors in business, rich and poor, are here brought into a certain sympathy; and this is no small gain.