

both. The uncongenial atmosphere in too many homes, the divorces and suicides are, I believe, not so much the fault of the men as that their homes, from various causes, are not made the most agreeable places to live in. The ordinary man is thoroughly domestic if he gets a fair chance, but as he is not angelic, some tact is needed to keep him there. Cold comfort will start him to where he will get warmth which may be of a shady character, with, as a result, mutual recriminations. But what can be expected when ladies too often lament their ignorance of domestic skill and are reduced to the ignoble position of being under their servant's control, for little as the servant may know, her knowledge too often exceeds that of the mistress and, as elsewhere, intelligence rules even in the kitchen. A healthy social opinion would soon dissipate the darkening cloud that overshadows our family circles.

We hear of the misery, degradation, &c., that girls are suffering from, but I cannot see wherein there is occasion for sympathy as long as thousands of places are waiting to pay well for even mediocre domestic service.

#### 4TH LAW, MORAL TRAINING WITH FIXED OR POSITIVE RELIGIOUS IDEAS.

I anticipate great divergence of opinion on this subject, but experience has removed my individual doubts. Theoretically all systems of religious belief and as well paganism agree on the general principles included in the term *morals*, but as the human mind is constituted, more than this is required. To quote the words of an evangelical missionary in Halifax, "it is not so much the love of God as the fear of the devil that keeps me from doing wrong," and he voiced a very general human frailty that must be considered in dealing with this form of education. The great bulk of humanity are like the evangelist. Punishment *present* or *future* for infraction of moral laws must be positively inculcated with a decided preponderance in favor the *future* as the *present* is not a sufficient deterrent. We have an abundance of civil enactments, but the daily journals teem with illustrations of their futility in the suppression of moral delinquency, and, I regret to say, more of this and of the grosser character is committed by persons well educated in conventional morality.

I need not occupy time with more specific details, for the uneducated (as the term goes) are the least guilty of heinous crime. Any form of Christian persuasion is sufficiently positive in its teaching, and I think it is the duty of the state to insist on positive Christian teaching to every child—the morals inculcated by the Sermon on the Mount.

Though this will not be a panacea (for the professors of religion too often fail) yet it is the best preventive we have, and if, during the plastic stage of childhood, every one was thoroughly imbued with the expectation of adequate punishment for misdeeds, our criminal record would diminish. But the fact is undisputed that all the Sunday Schools together are attended by too small a proportion of the children and those thus untrained are those in whose way is thrown the greater temptations to evil. Even the common schools do not include all and recent laws have been enacted to overcome this defect.

I think the common school must be the theatre of the desired in-