

was not reached until his whole nature was thrown out of balance, giving the ascendancy to the flesh over the spirit in the perversion of the generative function. The blackest page in human history is that which records the havoc wrought by licentiousness. This gigantic evil has hitherto vexed and defied the combined wisdom and benevolence of the world. The trail of this slimy serpent is found literally everywhere.

Looking narrowly at human conduct in this particular the world around, we find that the vast majority of our fellow men are submerged in immorality. They are not conscious of purity, much less strive to live a clean life. In Benares, India, may still be witnessed the apotheosis of lust, where it is raised into a religious cult, as in the worst days of Greece and Rome. The Latin races of to-day are slowly but inevitably sinking into degeneracy and final extinction owing to secret vice. Spain, Italy, and France are clearly on the down grade, and even in Germany the standard of measurement for the army has been repeatedly lowered. Men do not reach the stature nor attain to the days of the years of the life of their fathers. Why should any nation die? Why have not the Phenicians, the Carthaginians, the Greeks and Romans continued with us even to this day, increasing in refinement, physical perfection, mental power, and genius with each generation? Because their hidden vices destroyed them all. Our Republic is tainted with the same degeneracy, and the only hope that we shall not share in the fate of the nations that have perished is that, unlike them, we now know what is the cause of degeneracy and may guard against extinction. Continuing our survey, we find that a double standard of morals still obtains in certain classes of society and in various countries and cities.

Speaking generally, agricultural regions are freest from and factory towns most scourged by licentiousness. Next to the unfortunate falsehood that nature itself has instituted the double standard

of morals, allowing to man what is denied to his sister, is the foolish notion that the mystery and charm of sex was bestowed upon human beings chiefly for their amusement and only incidentally, and at the caprice of the individual, for the continuation of the species. Hence the widespread indulgence of flirtation, the ease with which engagements are made and broken, the crime of infanticide, and so on through the dark list. But I am not about to lead my readers, as Virgil led Dante, down the spiral stairway into the infernal regions which smolder and seethe beneath the surface of every city. That submerged city of corruption is there, terrible and real; but why explore it farther? We know what it is.

Suffice it now to mention some of the devil's fuel that feeds the hidden fires of lust. First in importance comes alcohol in the form of beer, wine, and whiskey. What powder is to the match and oil to the flame, that is alcohol to the lower passions of man. Every brewery and distillery is a witch's caldron, out of whose fumes arise seductive apparitions that deceive a man more completely than ever Macbeth was deceived.

Next must be mentioned the licensing of the social evil. Instead of restricting, branding, or regulating this curse, license laws, as in the case of the liquor traffic, have only served to make a bad thing worse. In vain do men strive to make that sin respectable upon which God frowns as upon no other. As there is no slavery so abject and cruel as that which enthalls the deluded inmates of the gilded palace of sin, so there is no form of disease known to medical science so terrible as that induced by venereal poison. Leprosy is a mild disorder in comparison. A celebrated Parisian physician said that he would not have one drop of this poison in his system for all Paris. If any one doubts the depravity of man, let him inquire into what, by way of polite euphemism, we call the social evil. The cruelty, cunning, greed,