

mortality exceeded the half of the aggregate mortality of the city by only a *few hundred*; but in 1853, the excess over one half the entire number of interments of all ages in the city reaches *as many thousands.*"

This very black account of the loss of life among the infantile community of the city of New York, applies to nearly every large city in the Union, and the blackness is rendered more intense, from the damning fact involved in a single sentence of Dr. Reese's viz:—"still-born and premature birth interments number equal to *one-fifth* of the entire infant mortality of the last half century," 24,164 of such interments have been recorded as having occurred in the city of New York during the last 50 years. The mind of every honest, upright, moral man must recoil with horror from the contemplation of such a record. It is clearly impossible that such a vast proportion of cases of premature births is to be attributed to the operation of causes over which the mother has no direct control, and the revolting truth is forced on us that many American mothers are debasing themselves to a level below that of the brute creation, in seeking to deprive of vitality that living portion of themselves whose little body pulsates in their womb, in the security afforded by nature, waiting for the time ordained from the beginning, that it should emerge into the outer world and become an independent existence. There is no use disguising the fact, that abortion is carried to a fearful extent in the United States; and if the evil is to be remedied, it is not by speaking of it with bated breath and advocating measures of secrecy. Every one who feels an interest in keeping up a healthy state of public morals should make his voice be heard in this matter. Let these inhuman mothers, who, to escape the trouble (real delight—according to the Allwise Ruler's intention) of suckling and rearing the infant of their womb, the blood of their blood and flesh of their flesh—let, we say, these modern Saturnian votaries, be branded as *foul murderers*, which most assuredly they are—let them be held up, as they ought to be, to the execration of all who have the least respect for virtue; and if, as too often happens in these degenerate days, they succeed in escaping from the hands of the law, let them forever be looked upon with loathing and contempt by the community. We speak not now of these poor unfortunates who, deceived by some of those plausible devils in human shape called *sealers*, seek, in the madness which a consciousness of their unhappy situation inspires, to hide their shame by the destruction of their infant. Guilty they undoubtedly are, and we would not attempt to justify them. But they are truly deserving of our utmost pity and commiseration. Who can tell the crushing anguish which hourly and momentarily bears down the heart-broken female as she reflects on the