

bear children at a very early age, and her family is never so numerous as are the families in the temperate regions. This is a natural cause of a social system that can never cease to be degrading. Another cause of polygamy is the increase of man's sensual passion as his manual labor decreases. In the tropical and torrid regions, nature provides sustenance for man unsolicited and in abundance. A hot climate, also, adds fuel to man's lustful passion, which plunges him into excess, when not controlled by that enlightened reason which guides man only when he becomes acquainted with the true principles of his physical and spiritual nature. But, man can never ascend, intellectually or spiritually, while he is a polygamist. The noblest thoughts and feelings of the human heart can have no place in the breast of him who is the husband of more than one wife.

Monogamy has ever characterized the higher races of the human family. Polygamy has ever marked the laggards in the race of progress. The monogamists of Europe have given the world all that is great, good and noble. The polygamists of Asia stand now where they stood when King Solomon sauntered listlessly among his seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. All the literature, science and art which has given joy and gladness to this sin-cursed world, has been produced by the man who is the husband of one wife. The noblest conceptions of mother, home and heaven are found in the hearts of the people who abhor polygamy. The basest conception of heaven—a seraglio stretching out to infinity—rests in the breast of the Mohammedan. As a man's life is, so will his thoughts be. Sensuality always degrades. The contemplation of the pure and the good always elevates. Hence, whatever may be the *physical* arguments in favor of polygamy, no other conclusion can be arrived at than that it is one of the greatest obstacles in the way of civilization and intellectual advancement.

The form of the marriage ceremony has varied with advancing civilization and moral development. Among barbarous races it consisted merely in the forcible capture of the woman by the man. Possession of the woman by the man gave him a legal right to enjoy the woman, just as in the law of real property, peaceable enjoyment for a certain time gives the possessor an indefeasible right to the property. In the second stage of the marriage ceremony, the capture of the woman was the symbolical marriage following the sale or gift of the woman to the man by her parents or relatives. This form of marriage marks the semi-civilized period of the world's history, and it has always been characteristic of the nomadic tribes who have