

something more than a name. The true friend will do more than admire, when more than admiration is called for. He will rebuke when rebuke is necessary, he will castigate when castigation is necessary; and thus will he prove, beyond a doubt, the sincerity of his attachment.

The United States is a great, a prosperous country; but it is a country in which there exist many evils that require correction; and, though the process may evoke the displeasure of a numerous class, still it must be done, if Americans desire to approach that perfection of nationhood which should be the object of all legislation. Whither must we turn to discover God's agent for this work of regeneration? To the Catholic Church, for she alone is the great social reformer. The power that exerts a restraining influence must be God-given. Man's naked assertion will not do, it must find its complement in divine assertion. Supernatural, as well as natural means, must be employed if we wish to strike deeply into the prevailing notion that pleasure is the ultimate end and aim of man. Such is the conviction that obtains very extensively in the United States. In the eyes of a great number, life is nothing else than a period of time, into which as much pleasure as possible is to be crowded, unmindful whether it be good or bad, provided it can produce what these people are pleased to call happiness. Can the result of this be other than disastrous? Surely not; for this reaching and straining after worldly enjoyment can have no other effect than to make men selfish, sordid and unscrupulous.

The truth of this must be manifest. For, in order that pleasure may be attained, wealth must be acquired; and what heart-anguish has followed this struggle for riches! Principle annihilated, honor but a name and charity a sentiment, these are its effects, not apparent at first sight, perhaps, because cleverly masked behind the conventional language of good wishes or presumably hearty salutations; but existing nevertheless, the curse and disgrace of our common humanity. The cause of this is, as we have said, greed for mammon; and greed for mammon is, amongst our neighbors to the south, a very prevalent evil. But this is not surprising. The American Republic is a young country, and the consequence

is that the descendants of the early settlers are still masters of a great portion of the territory. Wealth is thus more or less concentrated, while the less opulent are striving, by every possible means, to place themselves on an equal footing with the more favored children of fortune. The education of the child is begun by giving him a knowledge of quotations; the infant lips are taught to lip the language of the money markets, and the great doctrine of "the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God" is entirely ignored.

Such a state of things is demoralizing in the extreme. The heart is robbed of human compassion and beats only in unison with the clink of silver dollars. Do you pronounce the indictment to be unnecessarily severe? If, as yet, you have not done so, take time to consider, and it may, perhaps, happen that we will see things in the same light. Far be it from our intention to make this charge against all American citizens. God forbid that such a thing should be! This fact remains, however, that the high-minded, unselfish ones are the exceptions. We are grateful that they live to throw the light of their noble example athwart the dreary waste of this world's wickedness. But the selfish are the many. This is but the feeble echo of sentiments, oftentimes expressed by the more courageous of American public men. Do you plead the excuse that other nations are equally as bad? Little solace should that thought give you. Instead of living in apparent enjoyment of the fact that you are no worse than they, your aim should be to learn, from them, the lesson of national preservation. If they adjust the rope around their necks, be not so foolish as to imitate them.

The remedy for these evils is to be found in a healthy public opinion, fed by the purity and honesty of private life. We want other Damians to assist those now prosecuting the work of reform in the centres of social leprosy. We want the number of priests increased by men who, like so many already in the thick of the fight, will prove themselves fearless, in their efforts to stay the progress of the evil. We want the gospel of charity more universally taught, and the scriptural mandate of "Love thy neighbor as thyself" more universally respected. In a word, we want men and women to be