

limits of his usefulness. The manufacture of gun-powder is a form of production very servicable to the world, but when it is conducted so extensively as to render that explosive easily accessible to every one, from the disguised highwayman to the mischievous urchin still short of his teens, few will deny that it is full time to check an industry so threatening to the security of property and life. On the other hand, to prevent further carnage, and to warn others against similar offences, it is often necessary to destroy the life of the manslayer. But, after half a lifetime spent in sincere and bitter contrition, to seize upon some obscure poisoner, whose crime had been known to few, and was now by all forgotten, and drag him to the public scaffold, would be a deed as aimless as inhuman. Such a course could subserve no general good, and is prompted by an hideous and pitiless conception of justice, alien alike to the teachings of scripture and the dictates of reason. Surely here is destruction for destruction's sake.

The one great and universal demand of justice has been satisfied once for ever and for all, who will believe it. The grand purpose of humanity should now contemplate not vengeance upon the wicked, but rather his reclamation. Penalty, *save where remedial or preventive*, should have no place among the settled principles and ends of life. The renowned John Newton, whose piety and benevolence secured to him such deserved eminence among the divines of last century, had been in youth a systematic law-breaker and insatiable voluptuary. Under the severe penal code then in force, he must repeatedly have committed excesses expiable only upon the gallows. Will any one, then, dare affirm that, having abandoned his crimeful practices, and become an active instrument of order and reform, he had yet no right to live, and should have thrown himself upon the courts in order to meet in full the claims of justice? The establishment and exercise of civil law is right and indispensable to the security of society, but when it decimates the adherents of peace, virtue, and integrity, simply because some of these, though now turned from their former pursuits, had once been wicked, it surely o'ersteps its legitimate province, and wars against its own design.

The world needs builders, not destroyers. If demolition must exist, let it be but the clearing of the ground whereon to set the new edifice. Let us beware, however, lest our structure prove itself but a fresh accu-

mulation of worthless and pernicious rubbish. It is not enough merely to give form and unity to our materials; we must thoughtfully examine these materials themselves, and select only such as can contribute utility and durability to the complete fabric. Rotten rafters can never shape a stanch roof. A lasting dwelling was never walled with moss, or planted upon a foundation of feathers. Ten-cent novels never made a scholar. Many a life, indeed, has been moulded upon their principles, and become as useful an element in the living world as these publications themselves. The toils of one whose life is patterned from such models, are squandered in hoarding valueless debris, of which the sooner the earth is stripped the better.

No man was ever great or famous who did not spend his life working with the implements of greatness and striving to establish its principles among the leading attributes of his being. But, on the other hand, just as vicious or worthless standards of existence must combine to degrade and brutalize the man who is guided by them; even so one who draws the materials with which he engages only from the resources of excellence and knowledge, cannot fail to present in himself the embodiment of these qualities. He is a wise builder, not only ensuring by his choice the advancement of his own welfare, but also by his example, and by his works, promoting the happiness and general good of his fellow-men.

The former makes a wreck of self, and infects with moral miasma all who approach him. He is a destroyer of the most dangerous, because the most far-reaching and incessantly active, class. The incendiary may kindle one conflagration, and with that cease his depredations. A city may be shattered by an hurricane, and the loss to the populace end with the overthrow of their habitations. But the polluter of humanity, with each accession to the black roll of blighted and corrupted lives, gains strength and relish for fresh aggression. He moves through life a perpetual curse to his fellows.

Thanks to the increasing sway of religion, with its attendant blessings of benevolence and charity; thanks to the elevating and refining influence of temperance, numbers are daily breaking away from the fastnesses of vice and crime, and joining the votarists of sobriety, industry, and justice. To recover the fallen, to cleanse the foul, and divert the miscreant from his fatal course—these aims unite in the highest and