

family life of our people. Sad as must be the confession, and yet there can be no doubt of the fact, the home is no longer the school in which the elementary principles of respect for and obedience to constituted authority are taught. Respect for parents, which is the foundation stone of all authority, is neither enforced nor respected, and, failing that, all effort to maintain in wider spheres that regard for law and order so essential to the well-being of a country must of necessity be fruitless.

Of the prevalence of serious crimes against the person we have in the columns of the daily press evidence which cannot be denied, and should not be disregarded. Scarcely a day passes in which we have not the record of some deadly crime for which no adequate reason can be assigned, or provocation alleged. Wifely murder, frequently followed by suicide, may almost be said to be a common occurrence.

On the one hand we have the recklessness with which human life is assailed, and, on the other, the sentiment which shrinks from the punishment of the man or woman who do not hesitate to take that life for the gratification of passion, the lust for gain, or on the specious plea of self-defence. The frequency with which jurors excuse the most serious crimes on the plea of insanity is evidence of this.

How strangely this contrasts with the religious activity which is one of the characteristics of the present age, and which certainly is both sincere, and well directed, and in accordance with the teaching of Christianity. Zeal in missionary and philanthropic work is to be commended, but there is evidently something wanting which zeal in those directions does not provide.

There can be no doubt that the possession and handling of deadly weapons, such as the revolver and the knife, often lead to their use under circumstances which, but for their presence, would not be attended with fatal, or even very serious results. The man with a revolver in his pocket will be very apt to use it if involved in a quarrel which otherwise would be settled by a blow of the fist. The police would be doing a good work if they took a little more trouble in compelling the observance of the law with regard to such weapons.