

and public thoroughfares. It is exhibited in shop windows and in theatrical representations. A pharisaical secular press reeks with it. Whilst it devotes one column to the detailed narration and vivid description of crimes which the inspired Apostle tells us should not be so much as mentioned among Christians, it will deplore in another the growth of lawlessness, and censure the negligence of officials in repressing it, ignoring the fact that the very crimes it stigmatizes could not unfrequently be traced to its own disclosures and descriptions.

The punishment, too, of modern paganism is similar to that of the ancient. "Thinking themselves wise, they became fools. Therefore God gave them up to the desires of their heart, and they changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator." This perversion and blinding of the mind, proceeding from the corruption of the heart, is the most dreadful of God's punishments. It is the beginning on earth of that eternal reprobation consisting in hell endured not once or twice but a thousand times over in the intensity of its pains and torture.

If we seek a remedy, we shall find it to be the same as that applied to ancient paganism—Jesus Christ yesterday, to-day and the same forever. He came upon earth to lift man from the degradation of paganism in all its forms. He began by the heart, setting before it the example of the highest sanctity. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us that we might see in human form and habit the splendor of infinite holiness. "For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus." He is still with us in His Holy Church, from which He desires to shine in the hearts of all by the teaching of His heavenly doctrine, by the infusion of His grace through the Sacraments, by the devotion which has for its object to draw the hearts of all men close to His Sacred Heart, that they may be enlightened and warmed with His love. It is especially in the worthy reception of the Holy Eucharist that Christ shines in the heart, and the heart is drawn close to the Heart of Jesus. It