

divorce are thus summarized: "Adultery; wilful desertion, habitual drunkenness; imprisonment for felony; cruel and abusive treatment; inhuman treatment; failure to provide for; great neglect of duty; absence without being heard from; absence without reasonable cause; separation; voluntary separation; ungovernable temper; such indignities as make life burdensome; husband notoriously immoral before marriage, unknown to wife; fugitive from justice; gross misbehavior or wickedness; attempt on life; refusal of wife to move into the State; joining any religious society that believes marriage unlawful; cannot live in peace and union." And on grounds such as these, the only scriptural one of which in all the number is the first, the year 1890, it is calculated, saw more than 60,000 persons divorced; the last twenty years, according to the statement of Joseph Cook, having seen 300,000 divorces. So that it may well be said that "a vast horde of men and women" in our land are living in what Milton called "civilized adultery."

There is still another evil of which we can write only in hints, an evil which, like the last, touches very closely upon the home-life of the people of our land. We have recently received from the author, a Boston pastor, a little brochure entitled "The Crowning Sin of the Age." We need not be required to name it by any other name than it is entitled to bear, murder, prenatal murder, murder before birth, as truly a violation of the sixth command of the Decalogue as though a mother were to draw the knife across the throat of the infant lying in her arms. A

crime so common, according to the testimony of physicians, that were the truth to be published and the crime punished wherever committed, a gallows must needs be erected on every street corner of our cities, and in every town, village, and hamlet of our land. The statement is appalling. And yet there is good ground for it. Out of the total number of 424,415 families in the State of Massachusetts, where health statistics are more accurately secured than in any other State of the Union, perhaps 70,398 were without children, and 82,760 consisted of father, mother, and one child. To the shame of native Americans be it said that the crime to which we refer is one of which they are conspicuously guilty; and to the double shame of Protestant Christians be it said this crime attaches especially to them. We profess alarm at the increasing political power which Rome is securing among us, but be it said to her credit that she has not so heavy a burden of guilt resting upon her in this matter as have we. No assault upon our liberties can equal in its danger to our national life an attack upon the purity of the family.

We emphasize these three evils as among those which demand the earnest consideration of Christian ministers and Christian churches who profess to be desirous of the revival of our national religious life. By the example of consecrated action and by the unceasing effort to secure righteous laws, and by the concentration of energy on the enforcement of righteous law, let the way of the Lord be prepared, His day be hastened on, when all flesh shall see His salvation.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Maclaren's Sermons.

OUR readers who improve their opportunities from month to month of familiarizing themselves with the style

of this great preacher will appreciate this from the *Christian Leader*:

"Have you Maclaren's sermons?" says a professor of great sagacity to his students when they are leaving their