

ness. It not only affects our morals, but in its foul practice it has infectious, constitutional and transmissible diseases peculiar to itself, which inflict untold injuries on the guileless and innocent. It is calculated that not more than twenty per cent. of the young men of cities escape its foul contamination. Through this source it is a self-perpetuating and disorganizing vice infecting innocent mothers and cursing children in their beginnings; dooming them to endure infirmities for which they were not responsible, even to the third and fourth generations.

The natural history of this insidious and monstrous evil shows that it cannot be destroyed. No power of law or grace has so far accomplished anything towards its extirpation, and these have been in force since the days of the libidinous daughters of Noah up to the present hour. If it be true that we cannot root it out, it is a matter of primary importance to consider if the poisoned fangs of the monster cannot be extracted by a legalized supervision of a necessary evil. It is evident that the less disastrous such an evil and vice can be made, the better for society and the race, now and forever. We need not legalize but we could insist on methods being adopted that would minimise the evil, not because of the transgressor for whom we may have little sympathy, but because of the innocent for whom at present there is no redress. We talk about being in this way "partners with sin," and "making compromises with iniquity," or "stamping with approbation an ostracised social vice." If we cannot get rid of small-pox, although it is a contamination, we do the next best thing, we vaccinate. We modify the evil if it cannot be prevented. This social vice is a taint in a beastly humanity, and we ought not to allow it to do its worst if we can check its consequences, seeing it cannot be got rid of. Many of us put on airs of self-righteousness and say to these frail waifs of society, "We will not attempt to modify the evil. Go and do all the harm you can to yourselves and mankind and then be damned eternally for all we care." We may not pity the courtesan plying her calling, we may not extend our sympathy to the dissolute frequenter of the ways of hell; but we owe it to our virgin daughters, pure mothers, and to generations yet unborn, that an evil for which so far no remedy has been found shall be brought within the controlling influence of law, sanitation

and thorough circumspection. When a social reformer can be found who can propound an efficient system to annihilate this vice, these safeguards will not be needed. There is a noble class of women I have always felt sympathy for in their daily struggles. They are among the heroines of to-day. These are among those classes of women—many of them beautiful and accomplished—who daily feel the pangs of poverty and cold neglect, yet rather than become lost to shame and virtue for gain, work early and late in our shops and busy centres of industry for a mere pittance, badly fed, poorly clothed, and often miserably sheltered. They could, like their fallen sisters who parade our streets in silks, shun for a time all these discomforts by leading a life of infamy, but they spurn the offers of lust and often die prematurely in penury and want, martyrs to virtue and duty. This continuous struggle has more true bravery in it, than is seen in the excitement and frenzy of the battle field.

Without taking a pessimist's views of the situation, it is evident that any steps taken to root the evil out will fail. The next best course is to make it odious. It should be driven to the outskirts of the abodes of men, so that it would need to be sought after by the vicious. It should be isolated like leprosy, and not allowed to flaunt itself in the face of youth and respectability in our city streets, and by appeals to passion leading our young people to degradation and ruin. Fines and imprisonments of the inmates of brothels have done little to check the spread of this plague. Numbers have been reclaimed, but the majority leave their cells more hardened than ever in their evil ways. I would propose as a check, that the property owners of houses of ill-fame be held responsible for their tenants, and that such fines should be imposed on them as would soon amount to confiscation, and that judgment given against them should be a first lien on the property. Then funds thus secured to be applied to building and maintaining a haven for such as wished to make efforts to reform. Destroy the nests and the birds must fly.

*Intemperance.*—It is a cause of crime in the lower classes of offences. It is a vice in itself; whether it has arisen from a habit or has been bequeathed. There is a great deal of silly sentimentality spent on the unfortunate drunkard. The