

century. It was the revelry of human passion begotten by the oppression of ages. Here are the terrible results of unjust distribution of wealth. I am well aware that other factors were operating at the same time, but undoubtedly bad distribution was one of the unquestionable forces in producing that awful catastrophe.

And if to-day we step into that part of the world where populace is most dense, where science, art, and literature have attained to their highest development and where wealth is concentrated in the greatest abundance, there we may witness the widest extremes—monstrosities of wealth at one end and monstrosities of poverty at the other. There are the palaces of the Bedfords, the Westminsters, and the Portmans, and there alas within a stone throw are the pitiful miseries, the festering vices, and the loathsome degradation of Whitechapel with its putridity of barbarism and its pestilence of vice.

It is a common notion that all these effects, these marvellous contrasts are simply the result of individual action. Allow me to tell you that the distribution of wealth which makes such extremes as these, depends upon our statutory declarations, upon the laws which we frame, or which we maintain, and one of the most tremendous responsibilities of humanity is the determination of the method of distribution. On this Continent, we have imported the laws and customs of the older world, and we are rapidly developing in precisely the same lines. Our civilization, with our present arrangements, will be but a repetition of that which has produced such evil fruit in the older world, and if we wish to produce a better civilization, it must be by framing wiser laws, and the wisdom of these laws must depend upon the amount of investigation that we give to problems of this kind.

There are two things to which I would like to direct your attention:—

FIRST.—Is this subject of sufficient importance to demand a place in our school course?

SECOND.—Is this study of such a character that it can be successfully taught in our schools?

Though the remarks that I have made give but a very meagre sketch of the science, I hope I have pointed out to you how overwhelming important this subject is. Without knowledge of it, our efforts to properly regulate human society must inevitably fail.

As well might a physician try to remedy the diseases of his patients without knowing the laws of Physiology, or without any acquaintance with Anatomy. We try to introduce the student to the beauties, the grandeur, and the harmony of the heavens, but though he should be ignorant of these, the stars would still pursue their course, and the planets still continue undisturbed in their orbits. Man's laws have no effect on the motions of the heavenly bodies. But ignorance of Economics must be fatal to the development of civilization. This science presents to us one of the grand-