

This whole affair, in its sad history and thrilling tragedy, spells out just one thought, namely, the ruin wrought by evil companionship. A dozen homes have been covered with shame through the influence of one man. In an American city, in a railway station, I saw ten young men, chained together by links of steel and led by the armed officer of the law. The chain-gang is an illustration of the power of association. We are chained by those with whom we associate. These men had chosen to associate with criminals, in thought and conduct, and, finally, we behold them, marching with heads bent and eyes averted, down the shadowed aisle of shame. The lock-step of the chain-gang ought to provide a text for a great sermon. Short-cuts to success are always fascinating. "Get-rich-quick" methods blind the mind to the real dangers which threaten the soul. The strange delusion of our Western life is wrapped up in the idea of speedy wealth. Here is a picture worth studying. Young men gaze upon it. Here is the criminal, the devil's martyr, the servant of sin, the hero of the underworld—yonder he lies, in a cold room, with bare walls and iron door, without couch or bed. Yonder he lies with wounded back and bleeding knee and swollen ankle and blistered hands—still a prisoner: his friends afraid of him and his comrades trying to get rid of him.

Theodore Parker, dying in Florence, exclaimed: "There are two Theodore Parkers now, one is dying here in Italy and the other I have planted yonder in America." The future of Manitoba depends, very largely, on the type of manhood which is being planted in Winnipeg at the present time. What is the general type?—that's the question. Are the men who are out of office, as a class, superior, in moral tone, to those who are in office. Are not many of those who are in office the high and mighty ones in church circles and religious affairs? Is there a church or denomination in Winnipeg which has the moral courage to unload a man because his election cost too much?

I don't care whether you appoint a commission or not. I am not sure that facts brought to light by a commission would strengthen our faith in church, state or society. I can see no good to be accomplished by smirching the reputation of men who have succumbed to the universal tidal wave of worldliness which has swept over our North American continent during the past decade. The vital question is what shall we do to roll back that wave. The breakers of that monstrous sea are religious indifference, materialism, unsanctified pleasure and corroding unbelief. In God's name I ask what will restore the moral tone? Moral tone is the offspring of spiritual vitality. What we need is a revival of social consciousness and a fighting force.

And this criminal was looking for an easy time. Solomon was handing out the right goods when he said: "The