

of drama, whether as tragedy or comedy, in uptown theaters as well as on the Bowery, wherein are reproduced and tolerated scenes dealing with social irregularities and moral tragedies before audiences blasé, or seemingly often lacking in any discriminating sense of the low moral plane upon which their sympathies are appealed to. The existence, spread and kindly toleration of every "ism" in religion, since men are assembled from every country under the heavens, and bring with them their household gods and traditional divinities as truly as did the old-time Roman set up in his home in a newly conquered province his "lares et penates." That the basic reasons on which our customs and morals are founded are strongly affected by our environment has been indicated; and that new influences should become permanent and crystallized through legislation must naturally follow. How otherwise than by the apotheosis amongst the new-comers as well as in the natural-born on this continent of individual freedom to do as to each seems best can be explained such radical departures from the old-time ideas which prevailed in most European countries regarding the social and binding character of the marriage tie, as are seen in the divorce laws of many states, both old states as well as those rapidly filled up by immigration and migration. It will have been observed that no attempt or intention is made to criticize or express any opinion as to the moral quality of these changes, but only to indicate what seem to be the effects associated with immigration. As it is impossible to separate a man's daily occupation from his personality it is unnecessary to say that the spirit of adventure and enterprise which leads men to undergo the hardships incident to the opening up of new countries, not only demands a certain type of mind and of physical energy, but also develops in others a directness of vision and of the application of means to the desired end which has marked and marks today the pioneers who have opened up the American continent to commerce and civilization. No physical difficulties have daunted these men, while in the intellectual and moral sphere the great West has developed intellects not only illustrating physical force, but which even in literature, in social experiments and in legislative enactments have stopped at nothing and, whether in a right or wrong direction, have been the exponents of a virile activity, which in the absence of the emasculating effects of precedent have taught even the older states and provinces of the continent the full meaning of Sewell's lines —

"No pent-up Utica contracts your powers,
But a whole boundless continent is yours.."