

in the scene—not to designate him by the holy name—admitted the correctness of the reasoning; but to this speaker of the truth has ever since been ascribed the name of Enemy. The great Apostle must have had a similar suspicion lurking in his mind when he addressed to the Galatians that plaintive enquiry: Am I become the enemy because I speak the truth? With the advent of democracy women will be thrust out of the Garden which was created for them, and they will be compelled to face the naked truth of the world, unshielded by the shelter of the convention.

For civilization, I have said, is merely a series of conventions. It is only those who are well born, that understand them: those who are well bred, that learn them. And they extend to the finest details of life, but always for the protection of the woman, and therefore of the race. Society begins when there are two persons in the world. It is complete when a third person appears upon the scene. With every advance in morality a convention is created to reinforce that inner conscience which has been developed out of human experience, to protect the borderland until habit is transformed into righteousness, and transgression into sin. He who breaks one convention is guilty of all. The man who is late for dinner will lack in reticence towards the woman of the house. The soldier who will not salute the officer is on the road to mutiny; and he who will not make proper observance of the King is *in posse* attaint of treason.

Religion itself in the body of it is a series of closely knit conventional beliefs, any one of which can easily be made the object of a destructive criticism to the peril of the whole. A Church that is wise will go to the stake, and send to the stake, in defence of the furthest outpost, and not wait until the whole fabric is in ruin. In this there is a lesson, for Protestants who have succeeded so well in the task of destruction, and a warning for Catholics who are sore pressed by the spirit of the time. First, religion goes, then the beauty of life; and democracy will find itself without religion, without the art of form and colour, without skill in the use