

classes, whom, finally, we are compelled to support in prisons and penitentiaries or have the expense of hanging them after serious crimes have been committed.

Labor is part of our religion, and is a moral work. Every healthy member of community should be compelled to be ethical in this respect. The working habit is the principal standard of a nation's capacity to produce comfort and wealth. Industry means a sense of right and wrong as well as a means of prosperity. The three most important laws which should be operative in every enlightened nation are, 1st, right principles; 2nd, industry; 3rd, useful skill as opposed to ignorance. Without these foundations we may pass laws without number, but we will fail to eradicate thriftlessness or reclaim the ignorant and vicious classes. Secular or sacred socialism, co-operative societies, and all the wisdom of commissions and reports, advocating the means to improve the condition of the so-called lower classes by the means of improved dwellings, higher wages, and less competition will be in vain (good as those agencies are in themselves), without good morals, honest industry, and more or less competitive skill in some forms of labor however lowly. We naturally fear to have in the ascendancy the dangerous elements which tend to disintegrate society, which means defiance of law and order, and destruction of those social and moral forces which are founded on natural affection or on the humanizing influence of domestic life. We see its demoralizing effects also when—for example—divorce has become a normal condition of society, and the integrity of the family is fast becoming a fiction. As a result there is no fixity of purpose or principle in a family thus temporarily united. Morals (including parental control over children) are reduced to matters of expediency. Divorce, in a majority of cases, scatters the offspring, hence vagabondage, vice, and crime, among those who have no family ties or virtuous associations.

In law marriage is held to be only a civil contract, hence the most grievous wrongs of the one contracting party against the other is not held to be a crime as it should be. Petty larceny, assault, or any crimes against property or person, are summarily and severely dealt with; but the violation of the most sacred ties and the wickedly trampling on the rights involved in a solemn contract have no redress but in a dissolution of the bond.

It should be a law of our land that the party whose acts have wantonly destroyed the marriage relation, should be treated as a criminal. Morals must sit loose on any people who allow on the statute book such causes as "incompatibility of temper" as a ground of divorce. The evil results will be seen in the condition of the rising generation.

Another important lever to raise the masses from vice and crime, is by imprinting on the minds of parents the necessity of looking after suitable mates for their children. "Thoroughbred" should not simply apply to stock-raising. A noble race must have a noble ancestry. Courage, mettle, constancy, truthfulness, and wearing power can be bequeathed to our children just as surely as we give them a heritage of a sound or an unsound constitution. Exceptions there are, but this is the law of nature. We ally strength to weakness and the result is weakness. We marry disease to robustness and the coming race has a tendency to disease. We link physical beauty to ugliness and we may expect few lines of loveliness in the offspring. We see parents with low intellects and we are not surprised if a Bacon or a Solon is not found among their descendants. We see a progeny springing from a low parentage of beastiality, of base passions; no morals, with surroundings more filthy and vile than those of the brute creation, and we do not wonder at such beings turning into vicious citizens or dangerous criminals. Their very organization is saturated with animalism. Like brutes they live and like brutes they die. We see this natural tendency to vice in that gigantic ulcer of society, called "the social evil." It is the curse of all our cities and towns. It is an acknowledged fact, that when you eliminate all the cases of such as have taken this mode of life because of seduction, desertion, and vile family example, there still remains a majority who have succumbed to passion and lust because of vicious instincts, intensified by an undue love of dress, and desire to lead an idle life. Such are naturally bad, and for such there is little or no hope under the best training and example. Their immorality is ingrained in their very natures. It is a rotten thread running through the very warp and woof of their being. This is a terrible vice which cannot be shaken off, and clings to society with death-like tenacity. It is a whited sepulchre full of rotten-