

I can but faintly allude to that other sinful evil; that partial and incomplete act, equally, if not more mischievous, which the law does not contemplate; which the moral law alone can touch; and which God alone can see; yet which, to mention, reddens the cheek with confusion. To reduce to nothing, when immature, and to be no longer, is, without doubt, say some, a great gain; but to have never been, save in the fecundating principle which found no matrix to foster and maintain its life, is better! Oh-Shame, where is thy blush! If there be such a power as Conscience, where is its office? Yet women, otherwise delicately, minded, chaste and virtuous; and husbands, otherwise considerate, and worthy of respect and honour, combine to thwart the designs of marriage; to engender a whole train of evils in one at least or in both; to violate the laws of God and of nature; and to conspire against the State.

This vital problem is obtaining solution too near our own doors for us to remain indifferent spectators. So far the pernicious teaching has done but little injury here; but, gentlemen, who is there amongst us to-day who will not be prepared to admit it has done some? Who amongst us has not been appealed to by married women in fashionable society to thwart the designs of Providence in their regard? And who amongst us does not know the earnestness of that appeal, where delicate health, narrow means, the claims of society, the displeasure of a husband, are urged most tearfully, in support of an undesired maternity, by those whom we would be disposed to befriend? What young man amongst us who has not been obliged to reject a proffered bribe where his impecuniosity seemed to give hope to the would be feticide? What practitioner, who has not found his advice "not to kill" spurned by one who looked to him for help in riding her of the fruit she was bearing? Some years ago I was present at an interesting meeting of Physicians at Malone, N. Y., and the aged President dwelt, among other things, on this topic. He told us of a married lady, one of his best patients, healthy and affluent, who wished to be relieved, at an early period of gestation, of the legitimate fruit she was bearing. He expostulated, coaxed, and at length, threatened. She left his office, indignant at his want of complacence; and although he had attended her and her family for years previously, she never afterward went near him. But to continue his own story: "I had my own satisfaction, for of a fine afternoon, a young lady of eighteen summers,