

people made the nation strong or weak according as they were good or bad.

Here were men who knew nothing whatever of the morals of the Word of God, but who, from purely prudential reasons, protested against an institution which, so soon after its beginning, polluted the streams of social life to such an extent as to be considered a menace to the whole nation.

When Rome became the conqueror of the Greek nation she caught the contagion of the evils of the East, and when added to those which were distinctively her own, the conditions of the West cannot well be described. The transplanting of the drama to the Latin world injured the plant in nothing but in the fact that it was completely overshadowed for a time by the more brutal and exciting scenes to be witnessed in the arena; for why stay to see a mimic butchery on the stage, when the reality could be witnessed on the white sands dyed red by the blood of the slaughtered?

The Christian era dawned upon the world and cast its light upon the state of affairs as described above, and immediately Christianity cast down the gage of war against all that was contrary to the ethics of the Nazarene. The effect of this new, heaven-born element, cast into the measures of social meal was soon apparent; and as the light spread to those in high places in the empire, the more brutal became humane, and ultimately the bloody games of the arena disappeared.