

men, to supply the lack. It is just such co-operation as this which is needful in the solution of the social problem we are discussing ; and that it has already reached such results is the proof of higher possibilities.

The social mission of the Church cannot longer be neglected without disaster untold. There is an existing condition of things which cannot be let alone any more than a miasmatic cesspool. Our city population is so heterogeneous that the whole world is in one capital—the metropolis is a cosmopolis. These hordes of foreigners bring their own politics and religion, and are not assimilated ; and, like undigested substances in the human body, become irritants and provocations of disease. Crowded tenements mean vitiated air and vicious habits. Separation between classes begets settled repulsion and fixed social strata. In the throng there is still isolation. The lack of homes and healthy life ; the rapid growth of cities and the social congestion ; non-church going, with its removal of the dykes that keep out the flood of vice—these are some of the conditions that turn the metropolis into a necropolis for body and soul. Meanwhile, the “plague of crime” goes unchecked. Social vermin and bacteria multiply with incredible rapidity, until in a century and a half five generations, aggregating from seven hundred to twelve hundred individuals, have been traced to one ancestor—a brood of vipers, bastards, and vagabonds, paupers and prostitutes—in all not twenty skilled workmen, and half of these having been taught their trade in prison. We need to beware. While we boast of our great empires and republics, our institutions and liberties stand on a crater. Half a century ago Daniel Webster, returning from a Western tour, in four words recorded his warning : “Abundance, luxury, decline, desolation.” Less than twenty years ago another leading senator bore awful witness that in a recent competition between nations in the East the only art in which the United States excelled was corruption.”

Here, then, in brief, is our social problem. The masses alienated, or at least separated from the Church, and the social mission of the Church practically neglected, and social deterioration and decay going on, and all fulfilment of this social mission hopeless, unless disciples can be brought into line and made to stand shoulder to shoulder, like regiments of a common army.

What shall be done to bring about those conditions which make such co-operation and success possible ?

Robert Peel said, “Agitate ! Agitation is the marshalling of the conscience of a people to mould its laws.” We must agitate. We must fearlessly and faithfully hammer away on the anvil of apathy. There is power in striking when the iron is hot ; but iron is made hot by striking ; if we can do no more, let us, with the sound of the hammer, compel attention. Anger is better than apathy ; anything better than stagnation. Make men think, for thought is the spring of action.

We must begin by educating believers to a sense of the needs of the world and their individual duty. The social mission of the Church has a