

The crying need of the hour is a ministry that will hold over the heads of a lawless people and of lawless rulers the judgments of Jehovah, and tell them that "He that is higher than the highest regardeth."

The time was when Americans could boast that theirs was a government of *law*, and not of man. That brilliant Frenchman, De Tocqueville, said, in 1831, "No matter how irksome an enactment may be, the citizen of the United States complies with it, not only because it is the work of the majority, but because it is his own, and he regards it as a contract to which he himself is a party." How is it now? Let the specimens which I have given speak! Let the fact that of the seven thousand murders reported through the newspapers last year less than two thousand murderers were properly tried and punished, speak! Let the fact that more murderers were lynched last year than were punished by due process of law, speak!

## II. LAW ENFORCEMENT.

It is sometimes asked, "Why should the laws be strictly enforced?" "The people want liberty, and they will have it." "They do not want any more 'blue laws.'" What is law? Law is a rule of action, such as is considered best by the sovereign for the public good, prescribed by some properly constituted authority, accompanied with proper sanctions and penalties to enforce it. It is the expression of the sovereign will as to the course of action that is necessary on the part of the people to bring about the greatest good to the greatest number. But in this country the people are the sovereign. Hence laws in this country are such rules of action as have been prescribed by the majority of the people for the people to observe in their relations to one another. They are the best judgment of the majority of the people as to the proper course to be pursued by the people in their relations to one another,

so that the highest possible development may be attained.

If any one is permitted to act contrary to these rules or laws, he is permitted to do that which in the judgment of the greatest number is not for the public good.

No one should be allowed, from selfish motives or evil intent, to do that which will injure the public. But if one person is to be permitted to violate these rules of action or laws, or if one person is to be allowed to break such a law or laws, as he does not like, then every man must be, for in "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people," there dare be no partiality shown. The permission given to one individual to violate the laws logically implies anarchy, for all men should stand on an equality before the law. If one violates with impunity, all may. This implied permission, when put into practice, is anarchy; and in anarchy there is no guaranteed safety to property, liberty, or life. There might is right; hence anarchy always ends in tyranny, and if Americans do not want, sooner or later, a tyrannical form of government, they must enforce the laws.

The laws should also be enforced because an unenforced law becomes a great influence for evil. It creates in the minds of the young a disregard and contempt for all law.

All the laws should be enforced, because the only way it can be told whether a law is good or bad is to enforce it and see its fruits. A law sometimes when enforced is an entirely different thing than it appears to be on the statute books; and the quickest way to have a bad law repealed is to enforce it.

The laws should be enforced because government is of God, and just laws properly enforced are an instrument in God's hands for the punishment of evil-doers and for the encouragement of those that do well.

But some people put in the plea, when we speak of enforcing the laws,