

great coiners of intellectual currency whose utterances are the bullion and coin of the thoughtful life of to-day; but when we remember such names as those of Bacon, Sheridan, Burns and Byron, there comes upon us the conviction that genius has in itself no power to lift its possessor into a moral atmosphere higher than the average level of sin-stricken humanity. A brilliant constellation of intellectual stars shone on the higher society of Britain in the age of Queen Anne, but it was in a night of terrible moral darkness in which infidelity murdered the hope of sunrise, when in-briate lords and immodest countesses mingled in debaucheries and immoralities too foul to describe, and the report of the duellist's pistol scarcely startling the revellers, gave evidence how little men believed in the value and sacredness of human life. The maxims of feudal politeness were observed, but beneath that polished exterior there festered an amount of moral rottenness which was a satire on civilisation and a disgrace to Christianity. All history shows that genius is a willing slave to all the various passions and prejudices of men, and before it can be a blessing it must itself be blest with the purifying and the directing power of the Holy Ghost.

There is the force of *education* on the popular mind. We admit the tendency of general education to diminish disgraceful and violent crime in a community, by quickening and furnishing human intelligence; but all this only turns the stream of depravity in a new channel; and since all experiments in this matter have been made within the Christian ages, and in lands where public opinion has been elevated by Christian teaching and holy influence, it is questionable whether education alone possesses any power to raise man in the scale of moral being. All the training you can put upon an ash will not make an oak of it, the shape may be changed, but the nature is still the same. No, it is not in genius which makes a pattern, or in education which sets the many to copy it, to exorcise the demon that has made man's moral nature the ruin that it is, and has hung, in the horizon of his future, the black clouds of coming wrath. "Neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." Over the pages of all modern history are strewn the fragments of those broken cisterns in which men have miserably failed to carry the water of life to perishing humanity. But we further find that the power of the Holy Ghost