

dealt with by special settlement, does give the husband control of it, and yet even here, the wife, in many countries, has the right of dower. The injustice in these laws is, however, being gradually got rid of by changing the laws themselves and the injustices which woman specially labors under are being remedied as quickly as those peculiar to man.

The *age of consent* has been dwelt upon and it has been wondered at that the law should fix any age. Now, all human laws are necessarily imperfect, and it has been found that in such cases a line must be drawn somewhere. The law does not say it is right to do wrong in this case; it only says *when* the law shall punish the man. It should not be forgotten that while it is easy to picture a wronged girl it is quite possible to have a wronged boy—that the blandishments and inducements and seduction may all be used by the female and that she may deliberately lay her plans to entrap and does entrap the male member of society. It is true the effect upon him, as far as this world is concerned, is not so great as the possible effect upon the seduced female, but the moral effect upon him is as great. Just the proportion of these two cases I do not know, possibly there are more girls led astray than boys, but that the

latter are entrapped at times is beyond gainsaying. Then it is complained that the age of consent is fixed far lower for the poor man's child than for the daughter of the rich man. But is there not greater danger in the latter case? Not only is there the temptation caused by the man's evil lusts, but there is, in addition, the hope that when his desires have been gratified, the "infant" may be compelled, for honor's sake, to link her life with that of her worthless and fortune-hunting seducer.

Let me repeat that the present abnormal state of society may demand the sacrifice of woman to purify, if in the end it would be a purification, the state of it's filthy injustice, both as regards the crystalization of its political beliefs into laws, as well as the pure, just and vigorous administration of them, but there is danger in the attempt—it is a real sacrifice and those who are so eager to storm the breach lay themselves open to have the saying applied to them. "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Were the desire for the franchise only a temporary one then not so much harm could flow from it's temporary gratification, for it does seem at the present time especially, in the temperance movement, that help from above is needed.

