

frequently murdered upon altars, as sacrifices to the gods. Nothing reveals the brutality of the times more clearly than the gladiatorial contests in the arena. We are told that at a great festival Caesar put 320 pairs of men into the arena and forced them to fight to the death, to please a cultured and bloodthirsty Roman audience. Trajan once captured 10,000 prisoners, and for 123 days the desire for blood was satiated by seeing these poor wretches kill one another, in the amphitheatre. Thousands were frequently thrown to the wild beasts that the audience might gloat over the death struggles of the poor victims.

The religion of Jesus Christ entered unflinchingly into a determined battle with all these inhuman exhibitions. It condemned human sacrifices as murder, and excommunicated any who would attend a gladiatorial show. Under the mighty pressure of Christianity these brutal sights gradually faded away, and to-day the old Colosseum in Rome, where nearly 100,000 Christians perished, is in ruins, the wind shrieking through its old lion cages, a silent witness to the power of the law of love. But the "law of love" has not yet accomplished its work. The abominable and disgraceful sight, which may well make every Christian blush for his land and people, may still be seen of civilized men, from all over the land, gathering to prize fights to see two animals in human shape pound one another to death amidst shrieks of delight from the applauding audience. Ride on oh Gospel of love till all such abominable customs shall be relegated to oblivion.

I might tell you of the fearful tortures invented by men in the olden days, of how they roasted prisoners over slow fires, how they would dislocate every limb of the body, how they used to crush the feet in the diabolical boot. About the beginning of this century Rome boasted that she had 900 different instruments of torture. I merely mention these things in order that you may have some idea as to how much you owe to this law of love that has been working in the world during the last 1900 years. I know well that a degenerate church used these very weapons, and went on her wild "dance of death" in the very face of the plain teachings of her