

its undying protest before the throne of Eternal Justice, against the barbarous murder of children. It was the Divinity clothed with childhood, to proclaim its sanctity and to protect children from ruthless slaughter. That the divine protest still obtains, is shown by our own Christian legislation against infanticide.

From the child, it is but a natural step to the consideration of the state of woman under similar influences. To recognize what Faith has done for her emancipation and elevation, how it has overcome the world for her, we have but to recall her condition in pagan times, or to look at it today among the nations little influenced by Christianity. In those times and among those nations, the condition of women was and is such as to make us shudder, who so love and respect our mothers, and our sisters, and our wives. We have our own philosophers and historians bearing witness that, even in their most cultured times, divorces were of frequent, in larger cities of almost daily, occurrence; and they attracted no attention. One woman is mentioned in a reliable history (Juvenal), who divorced eight husbands in five months! One of the most illustrious of the pagan philosophers, sometimes called the "divine" Plato, actually and shamelessly advocated a community of wives, that the children might belong more exclusively to the State. Polygamy, simultaneous or successive, was a matter of course, and excited no comment. To what a state of degradation had woman, created purer than man, fallen! Thus was the world at its worst, and woman's slavery at its perfection, when there stood, in the stable at Bethlehem, a woman whose arms became the throne of the eternal God, a new-born King, come to introduce a new civilization,—to free and exalt womanhood.

The first among the redeemed was His spotless Mother. Mary could stand in the lowly stable, the representative of emancipated womanhood, and proclaim in her sublime Canticle the great things God did for her, and through her for the rest of her sex: "My soul doth magnify the Lord. . . . Because He that is mighty hath done great things to me: and holy is His name."—*Luke I*, 46, 49. The Church at once attacked polygamy, both simultaneous and, equally criminal, successive;