

history; for where the Bible is unknown nations are sunken in unfathomable depths of ignorance, barbarity and vice, and where it is accepted and acted upon, enlightenment, true civilization, scientific progress and moral purity prevail. Here we might particularize and specify Biblical Institutions. Who, for example, can estimate the elevating power of a vast army of evangelical preachers and teachers? The lessons of the Christian home, of the school room and pulpit, the Scripture readings, the prayers and songs of the Sanctuary do more to purify and refine society than is usually acknowledged. And how salutary and promotive of the weal of soul and body is the rest of the Lord's Day. It cannot be dispensed with without irreparable injury to the health, physical vigor, intelligence and morality of the nation. The workingman needs it for the recuperation of his exhausted energies for mental improvement and the cultivation of the amenities of family life, to say nothing of religion and his eternal interests. Besides, men taught or coerced to violate the fourth commandment soon find it easy and natural to set at nought the rest of the Decalogue, and to lie, cheat and steal without restraint. To throw open public libraries, art galleries, museums and parks on the Lord's Day, for their amusement and culture will not mend the matter, but the reverse. There is something infinitely better for rich men, railway corporations, and great manufacturing companies to do than to offer and to give money to induce others to join them in trampling under foot the law of God. Let them give the working classes a fair share of the profits of their labor and thus enable them to dwell in homes where health and virtue can have some chance, where the conditions of both exist in a reasonable degree, and where, by prudence and frugality, they can surround themselves with books and other means of intellectual improvement. We cannot but regard as alarming tokens of degeneracy the daring manner in which public bodies, and even some rulers of the nation desecrate the Lord's Day, and the disposition of many religious teachers and educators to find plausible excuses for excluding the Word of God from the daily thought and educational appliances of the masses of the people.

Luxurious living and love of vulgar display must be acknowledged as another evidence of degeneracy. A nation composed of lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, of a people "whose God is their belly, who glory in their shame, who mind earthly things"—cannot be strong. The final issue of the effeminacy, intemperance, and unrestrained indulgence of base passions which characterized