

rather impurity, we are also cautioned against preventives that will not prevent. Publicity is shown to be without hope; the confessional is, we are glad to find, condemned unsparingly. The question is asked and answered, "What was the effect of the confessional before the Revolution, when the Roman Church had absolute command of all education and of every official rank and worked through the confessor's access to every home?" "Great men went from a mass to an orgy, and numbered great clergy among their intimates. A famous courtesan boarded in a convent, and astonished no one." "It had no effect upon public morals, and the experience of its operation in families has done more to alienate educated men in France, Italy, and Spain, and now to hold them aloof from Christianity, than even fictitious doctrines." These are wise and timely words, and it is to be devoutly hoped they will be taken to heart by those amongst our clergy who are trying the experiment in rose-water form.

Intemperance is treated in the same fashion; first description, then negation. Legislation, it is asserted, will not cure it; culture is comparatively powerless. "It is not so long since dining-rooms and clubs saw daily—with finer clothes and more polished manners—the scenes that the public-house and the liquor saloon still enjoy."

A change for the better has taken place, but that has not been produced by culture alone. It is well that we should have thus clearly marked out for us the paths along which we need not travel. Still the question remains unanswered,

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

It may be instructive to note the answers given by other systems than the Christian, so as to enhance our appreciation of the value of our own belief. Herbert Spencer says, Do nothing, human nature will elevate itself by the process of evolution into the highest altruism! Higher and higher humanity will rise; purer, more unselfish, and more sympathetic it will become by an inherent necessity. Mr. Spencer tells us in his *Data of Ethics*, "Lack of faith in such further evolution of humanity as shall harmonize its nature with its