

the inmates of prisons are looked upon as different to ordinary mortals, as though their native element was some infernal region. Instead, they are all children of Earth, in many cases very high in some respects up the evolution-scale, and the worst that should be said of any of them, is that their energies are misdirected.

The office of the law should be to re-direct these energies—not by any means interfering without just cause, but only stepping in when freedom and happiness for others demanded it. At present, the law goes much farther than this; since it dictates what shall be the course of private and personal concerns. It is here where there must be a change. And another most important place for reform is in the prisons, which should be no mere negative institutes of punishment, but on the contrary, they should be schools for true reformation and development.

All men possess the germs of great possibilities; and the display of energy marked in the criminal should be looked upon as so much force which may be directed into better channels.

Individual and social diseases and abnormalities or "crimes" are not to be corrected by the stringent methods so often adopted. We must look into the cause which underlie conditions; our observations must extend beyond mere surface appearances, and cover a complete analytical ground. It is no use wasting our time in idle denunciations; for if our researches are just and fair, we shall find that in the wondrous scheme of Existence, the very falls and discrepancies fill a necessary part. What is called evil