

in coercion, in the jail, in the whip and the scourge. They are done with the moral appeal. They are finished with persuasion. They want, however, authority. They want to say, "Thou Shalt," and "Thou Shalt Not," and when they say it, to be obeyed under the fear of the criminal law. And the time must come when they and their law must go down together. I tell you that if there is a moral issue involved in this present contest it is the moral issue of the spirit of human freedom struggling against bondage. The age-long spirit of liberty that the chain can never bind, that the gag can never silence.

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The more the pity that we are so soon un-mindful of our heritage. We are wandering into untried paths, despairing of being good by virtue of the individual spirit, we are to be made good by statute. Every hysterical vote of the majority is to be clamped upon us as a code of conduct. Our life, our food, our clothes, our amusements are to be made the subject of stringent and coercive legislation. And for those who will not obey there waits the jail.

And that is what is happening. Law, divorced from the support of the individual conscience, is breaking down. A vast wave of crime is sweeping over the continent. And the reason is not far to seek. Prohibition is the most fruitful mother of crime that ever spawned its progeny upon the world.

Note well what has happened. Before the prohibitionists had their way and before hysteria, fanaticism and mistaken desire for righteousness placed them in power, there was no more frequent argument, no greater mainstay of their cause than the plea that prohibition would lessen crime. See what has happened! It needs no statistics to prove the awful and appalling wave of crime upon this continent. The world stands horrified. In the streets of New York and Chicago human life is no longer safe. Organized robbery is everywhere and murder has its daily price and hire.

The reason is clear. The rising generation of to-day see all about them a form of criminal law called prohibition. They see it everywhere broken. They see it broken by many of the most