

continence are impossible without divine grace, for the inspired wise man says : " I could not otherwise be continent, except God gave it. " (1) The proof of this statement is found in every page of history and of literature, ancient and modern, pagan and Christian. The Bible declares it from the Sodom of Lot to the Jerusalem of the days of Herod; from Dalila to Herodias, from the polygamous patriarchs to the adulterous David and Solomon. Even the Mosaic code, the purest of antiquity, tolerated polygamy on account of the hardness of Hebrew hearts. Oriental paganism proves it in the worship of the headless Venus Astaroth; Grecian and Roman paganism prove it by placing a libertine at the head of the College of Gods on Olympus; that Jupiter, of whom Juvenal sarcastically says :

" *Quam multas matres fecerit ille Deus.* "

The literature of paganism, its comedies and satires the public and private life of ancient Athens and of Rome, and their legislation, reek with the foul odors of universal sensuality. It is true that Rome had its vestal virgins, but there were only six of them at a time in the whole empire, chosen before they

(1) *Wisdom*, viii., 21.