

and it must be added the success in entrapping the unwary, of these panders of lust passes all belief. And yet efforts are being made to introduce into this country what Europe is wisely discarding—municipal tampering with vice as a substitute for repression. While it may not be possible to eradicate prostitution, it is never wise openly to countenance it, parade it, or set apart an entire section of the city as a plague-spot for it to fester in. Better encourage the Salvation Army to attack this master device of Satan, and drive it into perpetual obscurity.

Here, then, is an evil that overtops all others; it is a vampire that sucks the lifeblood of nations; it is an octopus that sends out its arms and tentacles in every direction. One of these arms is fastened about the industrial world and affects the wage system. The notoriously low wages that are paid to women and girls in our factories, shops, and stores make possible, even inevitable, the greatest temptation of their lives. How to make a salary of \$4 a week meet expenses that amount to \$5 a week is a problem that many a breaking heart has failed to solve. Every strike, every period of hard times, every closing down of factories, is a direct menace to female virtue. The deepest and blackest sin of which man is guilty is that he will persist in taking advantage of the poverty, the weakness, the inexperience of her who, by every dictate of manhood and chivalry, he ought to protect and defend. How long, O Lord, how long?

Another arm of this slimy cuttle-fish is entwined about the family, that fairest product of a pure religion. Transgressions against the seventh commandment are the negation of all that makes the domestic relation sweet, confiding, and divine. The one is in direct antagonism to the other. I maintain, without fear of contradiction, that a white life for two, and those two the young man and his prospective bride, is an essential condition of wedded

bliss. The reformed rake does *not* make the best husband, the old phrenologists notwithstanding.

Quite as marked is the influence of chastity or its contrary upon the religious life of men. Here is a young man who has come to the parting of the ways: the one greatest temptation of life is upon him. The white angel and the black angel are contending for the mastery as fought St. Michael and the dragon. If the black angel wins, then a blight will gradually fall upon the young man's entire being. Perhaps the most immediate hurtful effect of vice is upon the sensibilities. The fine play of sympathy and good-will towards the fair sex is destroyed, giving place to a self-conscious, hard, calculating spirit. Vice plows deep seams across the face, bears the eye, hardens the voice, and burns out the heart, so that the tender mercies of such a man are sheer cruelty. Well does Robert Burns say:

I waive the quantum of the sin,  
The hazard of concealing:  
But oh, it hardens a' within,  
And petrifies the feeling.

When the Christian man looks for the first time into this abyss of profligacy, he starts back in horror at the sight, and is filled with intense indignation towards those who traffic in young girls, whom they first ensnare and then ruin. The next thought is to do something to lessen the sin and suffering. The question arises: What can be done? How can we save the boys and girls?

1. First, by the faithful preaching of the Gospel. When a man's nature is renewed by the divine Spirit, and the life from God has been implanted in his soul, then will he hate and shun all sin, whether it be drunkenness or licentiousness. This first and always.

2. In the second place, direct teaching bearing upon the seventh commandment is also necessary. There is no use of beating about the bush; consecration is impossible where impurity is harbored. The sin must be named. A preacher in a logging camp tried in