

their birth to the evils referred to, than by quoting the following eloquent passages from a recent report of Dr. McFarland, of the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane:—

“The physical evils which attend the underlying cause of all this difficulty have, in the mean time, kept pace with the progress of mental dilapidation.

“The hair becomes dry and falls off; the eye becomes vacant and watery, and the lids are red and tumid; the countenance is pale and expressionless, the flesh wastes, the limbs hang loosely to the trunk, the muscles are flaccid, the skin loose and scurfy, the hands are purple and cold, and the palms exude a constant viscid sweat. Long periods of utter inaction are sometimes suddenly broken by spells of uncontrollable fury, spending themselves on the nearest object within reach. Finally, the wretched object becomes motionless and inert. He rises and sits down, eats and sleeps, only as he is prompted to such acts by others. We throw a veil over the close of the scene, which is often protracted long after the form of the man has less than even the instincts of the brute.

“It is unnecessary even to hint that the consequences above exhibited had their cause in a secret evil lying far back of anything manifested to the closest observer. The corrupt family servant, the vicious school-fellow, the libidinous book or picture, or simply the unchecked working of a wanton imagination, has sown the small but fatal seed of ruin—has broken down the golden wall of youthful purity and let in vice in one of its most loathsome and destructive forms. It is a fact of deep and painful significance that this vice recruits its victims, not from the ranks of the naturally low and sensual, but from a class comparatively high in the social scale. Whence comes this? Is such an evil without remedy? If not, where shall the cure be