

will certainly make the deepest mark on the mind, and sins which one has been trained to consider deadly will surely startle him when they appear to be so common and flourish without restraint.

London is in many respects a splendidly governed city. And yet the evils that prevail here are so flagrant and of such immense proportions that a stranger when brought face to face with them is amazed, and if he expresses himself as shocked and ashamed for the stronghold of Christendom. According to writers who claim to know what they relate, London contains no less than 50,000 persons who gain their living by a life in the grossest manner. This does not include a host who hide their shame under the garments of respectability. This is extremely shocking to the mind. But the secret atrocities which are committed nightly in this ancient Babylon are, it appears, so common and so common that the passion of an immaculate God who does strike with his lightning the authors of these iniquities, seems well beyond comprehension.

The *Pall Mall Gazette*, considered a class paper, "written by gentlemen to be read by gentlemen," and which circulates in the upper circles, startled society out of its right-laced and scented propriety on Monday eve by revelations of a crime that fairly make one's stomach turn. The writer offers to prove every statement he makes, giving names, dates, figures and facts, and successful contradiction, to the Archbishop of Canterbury; the Archbishop of Westminster; Samuel Morley, M. P.; the Earl of Shaftesbury; the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and Mr. Howard Vincent, Director of the Criminal Investigation Department, if they choose to dispute his testimony and agree not to protect the parties, as he is pledged to protect from public exposure those whom he obtained much of his information.

The details are too vile for reproduction in such a paper as the *DESERET NEWS*, even for the purpose of showing the corruptions of a great "Christianity." Suffice it to say that, in London to an exposure of the secret life of vice in eastern and western London, sustained by the wealthy and aristocratic of the land, he unfolds the details by which girls of 13 years of age are made the subjects of horrible traffic to minister to the lusts of semi-emasculated old libertines. How they are entrapped, their prices among regular dealers, the certificates are obtained of their condition, the brutality resorted to, the consequences to the sufferers, the impossibility of reaching for punishment the fiends called men for whom the market is kept up, the reasons why and how these crimes are carried in secrecy, the means adopted, the houses where these horrors are perpetrated, the great extent of the traffic, the particulars of purchases negotiated by the writer for the purpose of testing the truth of his information, the places at which the children are furnished by the half dozen, the profits made by the dealers, male and female, the particulars too purulent to repeat, too shocking and painful to dwell on.

The paper sold as though every page were a treasure. Efforts were made to stop its circulation. In two hours after its publication, when it was sold for a penny, four shillings were offered for a copy by news vendors. The article was made yesterday in Parliament with a view to the prosecution of the publisher. It is the story of the town. Numbers condemn the writer and the disapprobation is spread among the most respectable. But nobody seems to deny the facts described or the statements set forth. The fault found is with giving publicity. "Granting they are true," they ought not to be talked of." "The man ought to be punished for giving his own town such a name." "It is a blow against our democracy." "Such things ought to be kept from the public." These seem to be the prevailing comments. And a tenth part of the story has not been told is acknowledged by men in town who understand something of the dark deeds and mysteries of enlightened London.

The article turns out to be one of a series. Tuesday's and Wednesday's issues have a continuation of the subject. A cord of police kept back the news for supplies to the news-vendors at the office of publication. Seven persons prosecuted for selling obscene publications were released by the Lord Mayor, in a way that suggests ultimate dismissal and vindication of the belief of the Chief Magistrate of the city that the statements are true and that the publisher is the responsible person. Spurgeon, the popular preacher, deprecates the necessity for opening this moral sewer, and acknowledges the necessity for its cleansing. There are threats of criminal prosecution against the publisher, but the articles go on as "The Report of Our Secret Commission," and under the title of "The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon." Although the details could not be given in the *DESERET NEWS*, perhaps a quotation of the mildest type might be permissible. The following, with some necessary omissions shows the nefarious business of entrapping young girls is conducted. It is part of the confession of a woman who is now leading a better life:

"I took a lodging close to the board school, where I could see the girls go

backwards and forwards every day. I soon saw one that suited my fancy. She was a girl of about thirteen, tall and forward for her age, pretty and likely to bring business. I found out she lived with her mother. I engaged her to be my little maid at the lodgings where I was staying. The very next day I took her off with me to London and her mother never saw her again. What became of her? A gentleman paid me £13 for the first of her soon after she came to town."

To tell the truth she was drugged. It is often done. I gave her a drowse. We call it drowse or black draught, and they lie almost as if dead, and the girl never knows what has happened till morning. And then? Oh, then she cries a great deal from pain, but she is mazed and hardly knows what has happened except that she can hardly move from pain. Of course we tell her it is all right, * * * that she is through it now without knowing it and that it is no use crying. It will never be undone for all the crying in the world. She must now do as the others do. She can live like a lady, do as she pleases, have the best of all that is going and enjoy herself all day. If she objects I scold her and tell her she has lost her character, no one will take her in; I will have to turn her out on the streets as a bad ungrateful girl. The result is that in nine cases out of ten, or ninety-nine out of a hundred, the child, who is usually under fifteen, frightened and friendless, her head aching with the effects of the drowse and full of pain and horror, gives up all hope, and in a week she is one of the attractions of the house."

A Hampshire "Home" for the reclamation of the fallen, reports "there are no less than 10,000 little girls living in sin in Christian England!" These are regulars in the ranks of vice. The report of the Lords' committee of 1882 says:

"The evidence before the committee proves beyond doubt that juvenile prostitution from an almost incredibly early age is increasing to an appalling extent in England, and especially in London. They are unable adequately to express their sense of the magnitude, both in a moral and physical point of view, of the evil thus brought to light and of the necessity for taking vigorous measures to cope with it."

The *Pall Mall "Commissioner"* found some difficulty in arriving at facts in consequence of the case of Mrs. Jeffreys, who not long since was fined as a keeper of a high class house of ill fame, and who pleaded guilty so as to stop investigation and screen the "noble" and "princely" patrons of her establishment, they furnishing the money for her penalty. One of the chief objects of the publication of these articles is to obtain an amendment to the criminal law, which now shields the seducer and makes his victim helpless providing she is over thirteen years of age. The day after she is thirteen years of age she is by law capable of giving her consent, and the author of her ruin, if caught, has only to make it appear that she is "a consenting party," in order to escape scot free. The Rev. J. Horsley, chaplain at Clerkenwell says:

"There is a monster now walking about who is a clerk in a highly respectable establishment. He is fifty years of age. For years it has been his villainous amusement to decoy and ruin children. A very short time ago sixteen cases were proved against him before a magistrate on the sunny side of the river. * * * Fourteen of the girls were thirteen years old and were therefore beyond the protected age, and it could not be proved they were not consenting parties. The wife of the scoundrel told the officer who had the case in charge that her husband ought to be burned. Yet by the English law we cannot touch this monster of depravity or so much as inflict a small fine on him."

This is only one case out of any number that might be named. If a child is abducted the father cannot legally proceed except by *habeas corpus*, at the very earliest in twenty-four hours and at a cost of from £30 to £50. In Hull last August a man kept a child's brothel, known as "The Infant School." Fourteen girls from twelve to fifteen years old were held there, and their mothers who went to the house to claim their children were driven away with bitter curses. The vile wretch sold some liquor without a license and was thus brought within the police purview and his conviction for that was secured, but he was not handled for his deeper crimes. The schemes resorted to for entrapping country girls on arriving alone in London to visit friends or go to situations are detailed and disclose a system of depravity and heartless infamy that is truly appalling.

These articles may accomplish some good in effecting a change in the law, but they will not touch the secret springs that send forth the flood of corruption which befouls society in the British metropolis. The proceedings in the divorce courts which are detailed in the great dailies that affect to be shocked over the disclosures of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, exhibit a deplorable state of morals among the upper classes.

The case of Admiral Purvis, recently decided, which showed him to be as deep in the filthy mud as his wife against whom he complained, was in the dirty mire; and the contest for the title of Earl of Aylesford, just closed, which revealed the amours of the Countess of Aylesford with Lord Blandford, now a noble Duke, and proved him to be the father of her youngest child, and also revealed the doings of the husband as no less disreputable than those of the wife; and

other cases which find their way into the public prints, give evidence of the widespread iniquity which prevails under gilded trappings and the cover of purple and fine linen, tricked out with jewels and lace and topped off with titles and distinctions.

The infamies exposed by the *Pall Mall Gazette* are the preyings of riches upon poverty. The Moloch of wealth devouring the children of the poor. They are fed and fattened as much by the indifference to virtue of millions as through the inability of the weak to cope with the strength of the mighty. Cases unnumbered exist of mothers selling their own children to the lusts of the lecherous, and of girls bred and trained to dispose of their persons for gain.

In view of these deadly sins which are not confined to London, or Europe, but are the curse of all Christendom, the significance of the query "Why can't you do as we do?" comes home to the Latter-day Saints. God forbid that they should come down from the exaltation of the celestial family order with its pure and chaste sexual relations and restrictions, to the vile and damning depths of the under currents of "Christian civilization." Oh! the rank hypocrisy and soul-blistering cant of those who would send to a perpetual prison a "Mormon" polygamist, who "holds out to the world more than one woman as his wives," and who yet wink at the crimes of the age and pass them by as "necessary evils!" Let all the penalties that "Christian statesmen" can devise against the Saints be suffered for life, but let no compromise be made with Satan who is the great High Priest of lust and the inspirer of the measures against the "Mormons," far better to be forever an EXILE.

TOO TRANSPARENT.

THE NEWS has not said much of late in relation to a small party of persons who imagine themselves genuine Utah redemptionists. They are otherwise styled "The Young Democracy." These aspirants for political prominence have lately been making a buzz preparatory to entering the arena at the ensuing election. But their doings have caused but a small ripple upon the surface of the political pond.

One reason why the NEWS has not paid much attention to the vapourings of these gentlemen—aside from the fact of their not being deemed of sufficient importance—has been on account of the progress of a scuffle that is going on between the "Young Democrats" and the "Liberals." Those respective parties have had their fingers in each other's hair, tugging with all their might, and aiming—metaphorically speaking—wild and desperate blows at each other. We are not particularly desirous to take part in the contention, but more or less willing that they should wear themselves out at it. It may not be amiss at this juncture, however, to pay a passing notice to some remarks made by a somewhat sickly rally of the Young Democrats last Saturday night. They were made by Mr. Joseph L. Rawlins. In the course of his speech he said:

"The cry has been raised in Utah that only a certain class of offenders against the chastity and virtue which should belong to a people, could be punished under our laws. Why is it so? It is because our legislators were afraid to enact a law to punish men who commit offenses which everywhere else in these broad United States are punishable by law, but not in Utah, because the Territorial Legislature has enacted no law upon the subject. We say that this state of affairs should no longer exist. Only recently a man in a remote town committed an incestuous outrage and there was no law to punish him, and the vile insinuation has been made that that is the kind of liberty which the Democrats desire. I would say to them that so far as I had the power, such a man would not go unpunished. These are some of the things I would do."

In Utah there is no statute for the punishment of adultery—excuse me for again using the word. The Legislature when it enacted the criminal code, struck out the statute punishing adultery, because the members of a certain creed might be amenable under the law. They would prefer that all sorts of crime of that kind be permitted rather than that a law should be enacted under whose provisions those men might be punished. And yet the cry is raised that Congress has enacted no law to punish this sort of offense, while it has enacted a law to punish polygamy and what is termed unlawful cohabitation.

In these remarks Mr. Rawlins places the odium for the non-existence of local statutes for the punishment of the sexual offenses to which he alludes upon the Territorial Legislature. Some of the friends of Mr. Rawlins, among whom we have taken the liberty of ranking myself, have been trying, while differing widely from his expressed opinions, to believe in his sincerity. His quoted statement alone, however, appears to warrant an ending of the struggle.

To assume that the gentleman named meant what he said would be an insult to his intelligence. He must know that a corrupt judiciary is responsible for the condition which he appears to lament. Two men, Alonzo Colton and Thomas Hawkins were tried, convicted and sentenced to terms of years of impris-

onment under the local law in relation to sexual crimes. The former served out his sentence in the Penitentiary, and the other was released by the action of the United States Supreme Court decision in the *Englebrecht* suit, which declared the grand jury which found the indictment to be illegal.

Mr. Rawlins will not deny so patent a fact that, as these were polygamy cases, they should have come under the United States Statute in relation to that offense, the local law had not the remotest reference to them. These men were pursued and punished under a law which they had never violated; therefore they were innocent. And it is an old adage that "It is better that ten guilty men should escape than one innocent man suffer" under the law. If any evidence were required in addition to what has been adduced in reference to the inapplicability of the local law to the cases cited, the intention of the Legislature which enacted it would furnish it. That law-making body was composed of men who were either practical polygamists or believed in the rightfulness of that marital relation.

It is the duty of Legislatures to adopt measures to protect the innocent as well as punish the guilty. Had a corrupt and partisan judiciary not entered upon a crusade against men who had never violated the statute under which they were pursued, either the old law would have been in existence or a new one would have been on the books. But had not the Legislature stepped in to prevent it, there is every reason for believing that the prisons would have been crowded, by missionary judges, with men sent there illegally. While such a situation might suit the sentiment of Mr. Rawlins, it would not be fair to assume that it would coincide with his views as a lawyer. And he should, from the latter standpoint—had he been disposed to be either fair or consistent—have placed the blame for the statutory omission he pretends to deplore where it properly belongs.

We regret that a gentleman of the standing of Mr. Rawlins—the possessor of considerable talent as a legal advocate—should descend to the practice of such transparent political jugglery. He should keep in mind a fact of mammoth importance—that to be mistaken is pardonable, but to be guilty of insincerity is beyond the pale of excuse. Men who assume the role of reformers in any sphere should not, for their own sakes and the sake of the cause they represent, deal too freely in shallow appeals to the "groundlings." They are far from being viewed as legitimate currency by the more thoughtful and penetrating part of the populace.

Mr. Rawlins is surrounded by a glass environment, and consequently not in a position to engage in the pastime of throwing stones at his neighbors. A week before he delivered the speech from which we quoted, he was discharged from an overloaded and evidently disordered mental digestive apparatus, a mass of similar stuff. He animadverted upon the action of the thirteen gentlemen of Bear Lake County, Idaho, who passed on their *voir dire* and were admitted on the panel of the grand jury. Their action was based on the representations of Chief Justice Morgan, who stated, in opposition to his former rulings, that if they had not recently heard the doctrine of polygamy taught by the Church to which they belonged they were eligible.

On reconsideration, however, they decided to vacate their position as jurors, as it was in their opinion not only contrary to an existing law, but likewise to former rulings under it of Judge Morgan. Also on the ground that although they had not heard the doctrine of polygamy taught for some time, it was an understood fact with them that it was a standard tenet of the Church.

Mr. Rawlins not only questioned their sincerity but stated that they had committed perjury in assuming their first position. Yet he knew full well that they did neither more nor less than take the law as interpreted on the spot by the Court. Their subsequent action was simply, on reconsideration, an assertion of their own view of the plain purport of the law.

The speaker likewise intimated that the later attitude of the jurors was assumed on account of orders which they had received, a base insinuation and presumption, unsupported by a single fact. Men who are so ready to question the honesty of others might be supposed to be paragons of sincerity themselves, which, however, is seldom if ever the case. Even in this uncalled for slur upon the motives of thirteen gentlemen with whom it is presumed Mr. Rawlins has but little if any acquaintance, he betrayed the hollowness of his own position on the subject. While he animadverted upon them he had not a word of censure for the corrupt judicial officer who was the cause of the entire proceeding.

Mr. Rawlins has shown that he is not in a position to sit in judgment upon the motives of his fellowmen. An impartial criticism of number one might serve him a good purpose.

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