

marks, the Rev. W. W. Case, after touching upon the main topic, said that, notwithstanding its awful character, to which so much attention was given by the press, there was another class of crimes so prevalent that but little heed was paid to them, but which he considered greater than the church murders; "I refer," said he, "to the two little girls who were deceived and decoyed to a town in Oregon called Astoria, there to lead a life of shame—would it not have been far better for those girls if they had been murdered than led to such a life?" Rev. W. R. Goodwin also deplored a picture absolutely startling in its coloring, saying that the present suggested to him the description given in Hosea iv: 1-2: "For the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood." He then pointed that there was prevailing "an epidemic of crime, not even ungodly men have asked themselves, 'What is to be the result of all this? What is to be the final outcome of such an epidemic of ungodliness and of crime?' It is known, I presume," said he, "to the most of you, that in the city of San Francisco, within the last five years, there have been more than 150 cold-blooded murders; and tonight there are about forty murderers in our jails in this city. If these forty were all hanged within the next ten days it would be a blessed good thing for this city, and for this state, and for this nation. You ask whether there has been any punishment of these murderers and I say 'yes.' Out of the 150 murderers but one poor Chinese has been hanged, and I firmly believe that if he had had money and influence he, too, would have escaped the halter."

Other prominent divines talked to their congregations in the same strain, and pointed out what they believed to be the cause of such an awful condition of morals. Rev. E. B. Dille said that "a man who has money can not be convicted here." He blamed the prevailing system of meting out justice to criminals, and also the maudlin sympathy bestowed upon convicted criminals by foolish women for much of the trouble. Rev. Dr. Gibson declared "there is too much romance thrown over crime in San Francisco, and the greater the rascal the more likely his chances to escape punishment for his crime." Rev. W. C. Merrill pointed out as causes for the degradation the reckless disregard of the Sabbath day, establishment of godless schools, loud theatrical advertisements and plays, general neglect of spiritual development, etc., and expressed to his congregation the opinion that "the awful cloud of shame that hangs above our city's roofs and church spires this hour is the inevitable product of our city's life and of the education of the age in which we live. You may take twenty or thirty years of San Francisco's history and from the premises there furnished you can logically deduce the carnival of crime through which the last twelve months have dragged us. The ten commandments outran the statute of limitations in San Francisco long years ago. They

are dead letters in seven-tenths of the business community." Rev. F. L. Higgins gave his view that a chief cause of the trouble "is a doctrine widely taught in the Christian churches. It is the doctrine that a man can be saved by faith alone in the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ. This doctrine is diametrically opposed to the doctrine that 'Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God,' taught by our Savior. It is thus a doctrine wholly without foundation in scripture."

The picture suggested by this discussion of the subject is far from being pleasant, but as a fact it must be met, and thus may be instructive as a warning to others. There might be some who would think that, under such descriptions, San Francisco is about the wickedest city in the country, and is quite ready to take its place with Sodom and Gomorrah; yet this conclusion is not justified by general observation elsewhere. In Los Angeles, for instance, it has been suggested that the city should build high board fences along the outside of the sidewalks on a certain street, so that those who ride on the street cars on that thoroughfare might not be shocked with the indecent exhibitions that go on. Other cities of this country, and of Europe also, are equally as bad. The decline of morality is general.

Notwithstanding all that has been said of the bad, there is in all these cities, San Francisco as elsewhere, a vast number of good, honest people, who are struggling in the mists of corruption to maintain their honor and integrity; hence denunciations must not be too sweeping. Shall all these good people be swept into the vortex which seems to have gathered the great majority? Human power, human preaching, human agency, cannot save them. It will take the Almighty's judgment of wrath, just as it has done in ages past, to check the carnival of vice. From the trend of affairs in morals, society, business and politics, it would appear that that judgment should not be long delayed, lest the number of those in the flesh to be saved be made small indeed.

ANTEDILUVIAN EGYPTIANS.

The recent discoveries reported as having been made in Egypt in one respect at least are in line with those of the past twelve years in the Nile basin. Working in the interest of scientists, that greatest of modern Egyptologists, Professor Flinders Petrie, is also doing a great work in the interest of true religion, by unearthing incontrovertible evidence of the historic truth of Bible accounts. The discoveries during a dozen years past have cleared many dark pages of Egyptian history and have gone to confirm the truth of the Bible narrative of the reigns of the Pharaohs; and from the summary at hand of the new development, it appears that there is now strong corroborative proof of the correctness of the brief but expressive Mosaic record of antediluvian peoples.

As stated in the short press dispatch, the scene of the recent discoveries is the district between Bullas and Nejah, thirty miles north of Thebes. In the

ancient town of Neuh, Professor Petrie claims to have uncovered in the ruins the remains of several successive dynasties; less than a quarter of a mile away were the remains of another city. The contents of the town are described as being utterly different from anything heretofore discovered in Egypt. Not only was a town found, but also cemeteries of the people, nearly 2,000 graves being excavated. The result was a complete surprise to the searchers, as it promises to be to archaeologists generally, for not a single Egyptian object was found—not a scarab, hieroglyph, Egyptian bead, god, or amulet, such as are abundant in the neighboring Egyptian city; not a body was mummified or buried at full length—all were contracted, with their knees bent up to their arms.

The remains were observed to possess characteristics wholly distinct from those of the ancient Egyptians that have been revealed, and there was left no doubt in the minds of the investigators that they belonged to a race which preceded post-diluvian Egyptian civilization. Their stature was remarkable, some being over six feet in height; their hair was brown, wavy, and not crisp; there was the prevailing prominent aquiline nose and long pointed beard; the physiognomy of the race was fine and powerful. The remains of their domestic utensils, etc., show that they were the equals or superiors of the Egyptians in many lines of pottery, flint working and bead making; yet drawing and sculpture were in a rude condition, and no writing was known beyond personal marks. There were adzes, needles, hairpins, and knives, which showed that copper and other metals were known and worked with high skill. At Neuh and on a plateau near by, Professor Petrie found ruins which he says are evidences of a race of men antedating all history by many thousands of years; large, massive flints, beautifully worked and unworn, were discovered of exactly the same forms as those well known in the river gravels of France and England, their enormous age being shown by the black and brown staining on them, while others believed to be 5,000 years of age show scarcely a tinge of weathering.

From the most careful estimates he can make, Prof. Petrie says the human remains belong to an age not later than between the seventh and eighth dynasties, according to Egyptian history, or about 3000 B. C. He found abundant evidence of ceremonial cannibalism. One remarkable custom was the eating of portions of the bodies of deceased persons; the head was almost always severed from the shoulders, and the hands were often removed; pottery was placed over the decapitated neck; in one place was a handful of ribs, in another a handful of arm bones, elsewhere a pile of vertebrae; the bones of several bodies were heaped together, and lines of bones were strewn around the pile, each with their ends broken off and the marrow scooped out. These signs are taken as implying an ignorance of civilization, and also the existence of a vicious and corrupt manner of life. It is suggested that this people may have overthrown the Egyptian civilization at the close of the old kingdom, and produced the