

duties and responsibilities of life; a dastard because capable of an act most degrading and criminal; a hypocrite because wearing an outward appearance of respectability while inwardly reeking with corruption.

If the wife take the initiative, then the husband realizes, to his disgust and horror, that, instead of uniting himself to a good and pure woman, he is mated to one whose nature is so far perverted and debased that she lacks the highest instinct and chief virtue of the sex, a desire for maternity; and that, while willing to enjoy the pleasures and advantages of the married state, she is too selfish and too craven to assume its responsibilities.

If the prevention of offspring is the result of the mutual consent of husband and wife, as is the case in most instances, then there is mutual demoralization. Each sees the other stripped of those qualities which unperverted love cleaves to, and which an uncorrupted conscience and imagination approve and admire. The husband is no longer a high-minded, pure and honorable man in the eyes of his wife; he is the slave of a degraded and degrading lust. No longer is the wife a sweet and chaste creature of unsullied mind and holy affections; she is a thing polluted and defiled. She has submitted her body to lust, and again to an outrage upon nature that the fruits of that lust may be forestalled. There may be no open admission of these mutual sentiments, but they exist in a more or less clearly defined form as certainly as conscience does.

How can love, pure love, exist between such a couple? It cannot. Love between husband and wife is the reward which the Creator bestows upon those who obey His laws; but this, "the greatest solace of human existence," is withheld from such violators of natural and divine law as have just been described. Passion may abound, and indeed generally does; for its cultivation and gratification are made chief aims in life; but it is not love. One day it may wear that form, but the next day it appears as anger, next as jealousy, next as revenge; and thus all the evil there is in the human heart is developed and called into action; and divorce becomes inevitable.

When man and wife resolve to face, with patience and courage, all the duties and consequences which marriage rightfully and naturally imposes; when they cultivate in their hearts a love and desire for offspring; when they refuse to make their bodies mere harps of pleasure, the strings of which are to be played upon for the gratification of unholy passion; then, by a natural law, the love that led them to the altar grows stronger with the years. It is accompanied by an unshaken confidence, which must ever be its foundation if it is to endure, and by a charity which, like a gentle mantle, covers faults and shields from adverse criticism.

Wife and children draw to his home, with a resistless magnetism, the husband whose duties for the day no longer detain him; and the wife, who knows the truth and depth of the love her husband cherishes for her and the little ones she, with so much pain and suffering, has borne to him, listens eagerly for his welcome footstep, and when he enters, no matter how humble his home may be, a ripple of delight sweeps over the family circle. Christ draws all men to him because He suffered for their sake; and the love that suffers for the sake of the thing beloved, is a resistless force in the spiritual universe. So that wife who bravely endures the pain and danger of childbearing, responsive to her husband's wish, draws him to her by her suffering with a tie as resistless as the

power of God, and as enduring as His throne.

UNPLEDGED.

Probably most, and possibly all of the candidates on all of the municipal tickets have been written to or otherwise approached by representatives of different interests in the city, who have desired to know what the policy of the candidates, if elected, will be toward those interests. The candidates on the Citizens' Reform ticket have been approached in this way repeatedly, and by persons representing different classes or interests in the community.

There can be raised no valid objection against efforts made in a legitimate way to ascertain how a candidate for office stands upon any issue of the campaign, or other matter of public interest; but if such inquiries are accompanied by promises that votes will be given, or threats that they will be withheld, if the candidate consents or refuses, as the case may be, to pledge himself as the person approaching him may desire, then there may be serious objections, both moral and legal, to such overtures. The provisions of law relating to election offenses are sweeping and specific, and are very likely to cover such acts, threats or propositions as are here indicated.

So far as the "News" knows the candidates on the Citizens' Reform ticket stand absolutely unpledged to any and every party, class and interest in the city. The only pledge they have any cause or indeed any right to make is to the community as a whole, and is to the effect that, if vested with power, they will use it for the greatest good of the greatest number. They promise an impartial, conservative and business-like administration. No class or interest, as such, will be singled out as an object of either opposition or favor. The law will be enforced on all alike, but there will be no radicalism.

In short, the principles represented by the Citizens' Reform ticket are the best and safest that could be offered for the support of the voters of the city. No class nor interest in the city, except such as may violate the law, need feel the slightest apprehensions as to the policy that will be pursued by the candidates on that ticket, should they be elected. They will be fair, just and conservative. Further than this they stand before the people untrammelled by pledges or obligations of any sort.

NON-PARTISANSHIP ELSEWHERE.

We note that the clergy are taking a pretty active part in politics in some of the municipal campaigns in behalf of reform and non-partisan government in various eastern cities. The politicians in such places get up and utter a loud howl about the interference, as they do elsewhere; but as residents, taxpayers and presumed leaders in moral and righteous thought, the ministers very properly claim and are determined to exercise the right of using their votes and influence just as freely as anybody else, in matters which so vitally affect the common welfare. In many places the women too, always the best and purest force in the community, are enlisted in the same good cause. In no city is the contest of greater importance, excepting of course the local campaign in which the reader is most directly interested, than in the Greater New York; and as an illustration of the zeal of both the ministers and the ladies we quote from the New York Post as to the work being done in Brooklyn:

"Brooklyn is still called 'the City of

Churches,' and there is no other city where the clergy wield so wide an influence. The leading clergymen of all faiths are openly and earnestly for Low—the Rev. Lyman Abbott, the Rev. Richard S. Storrs, the Rev. Robert R. Meredith, the Rev. A. J. F. Behrends, and Father Malone being only a few among the many who will do everything in their power for the cause of good government. The spirit which animates them may be judged from these remarks of Dr. Behrends: 'A vote for Low is a rebuke to bossism, whether it be Crokerism or Plattism. I think it is the duty of all ministers to speak out from their pulpits in favor of Low and righteousness!' That such clergymen will find hearty support in this attitude is shown by the fact that at the first meeting of the prudential committee of Dr. Behrends's church after his return from Europe eleven out of thirteen declared themselves for Low, while the other two, who were rather undecided, are pretty sure when the time comes to vote the same way.

"The women of Brooklyn take an unusually active interest in public affairs, and they are co-operating in the movement for the election of Low. Various organizations of women are already at work to this end, in harmony with the Citizens' Union. A great number of voluntary associations and clubs for the promotion of Low's election have sprung up all over the city. Many of these have been doing effective work in leaving at houses cards reminding voters of the last opportunities for registration, and in announcing a host of meetings, and on election day they will be active in securing the attendance at the polls of every voter who will support Low.

"Altogether the evidence is overwhelming that there is now in progress a movement of good citizenship in Brooklyn for the destruction of machine rule quite as powerful as those previous movements which carried Low into the mayoralty in 1881 and 1883 and Schieren in 1893. If the believers in non-partisan city government will 'come to the East River' from New York side with a good showing for Low, the borough of Brooklyn will 'do the rest.'"

SILVER COMMISSION FAILS.

No one ought to charge President McKinley with bad faith because the commission appointed by him failed to procure England's consent to a monetary conference. The appointment of the commission, the selection of its personnel, the instructions he gave to it, and the support he has rendered its efforts to accomplish the object in view, have all been parts of a policy characterized by unquestionable good faith in the carrying out of the pledges on which the administration was clothed with power by the people.

France heartily coincides with the United States on the coinage question, but England holds aloof and Germany waits on England. The British government declines to participate in a monetary conference, and this refusal ends all hope of any international agreement for the restoration of silver, at least for the present. It is odd, though, that silver should take a jump simultaneously with the announcement that England will do nothing looking to its rehabilitation, but such is the fact.

The result of the efforts of the monetary commission are what thoughtful men in the western part of the United States generally have been expecting ever since it was appointed, consequently no shock of disappointment has been felt by them. So far as our