

## THE SERPENTS IN THE HOME-NEST.

BY THEODORE L. CUYLER, D.D.

The late terrible "trunk" tragedy, followed closely by other tragedies well nigh as terrible, have startled and shocked the nation. This time the serpent has thrust his hissing tongue into our very faces; but there is a whole brood like unto him nestling still in dark concealments. Into two or three dens of death the daylight of detection has streamed; but they are only specimens of a class more numerous than we have dreamed of. They are fresh proofs of the fact that, in our great cities, there exists a distinct class of "institutions," organized for the sole purpose of extinguishing human life. They are "run" by a body of infamous creatures, whose only trade is to murder. While we are sending our money and our missionaries to convert heathen women, who are flinging their babes into the Ganges, we have among us scores of dens to which our own women go voluntarily for the murder of the unborn. So prosperous are these abortion dens, that their proprietors can buy farms and drive fine carriages. Such prosperity bespeaks large patronage. Who are the patrons?

It is an undeniable fact that many of them are under the solemn vows of wedlock. Some of these having broken the Seventh Commandment, are driven to break the Sixth commandment in order to conceal their transgression. They commit murder to hide adultery. But another and larger class are those who regard the sweetest blessings of wedlock as a burden and a bane. Instead of feeling that "children are a heritage of the Lord," these most unnatural "monsters" regard them as a plague and nuisance—a heavy tax on time and strength and purse, a hindrance to their gayeties, or a hateful intruder upon their ease and self-indulgence. So rather than become mothers they are willing to become murderers! Nor is it only in those hideous slaughter-houses where the modern Herods slay the innocents that these deeds of darkness are done. This crime is perpetrated in hundreds of private dwellings. The "medicines" and "reliefs" so widely and wickedly advertised, are sent for and used for the prevention of maternity. Medical art has devised a dozen "sure and easy" methods for destroying the germs of infant life. That they are used to an extent almost incredible is well known by family physicians, who are called upon to repair the ravages of those vile persons. For these methods are not so easy after all. They cost many a woman a ruined constitution. They cost the power of after propagation. They sometimes cost the life of the guilty wife who harbors this serpent in the home nest. We heard lately of the death of a gay and beautiful wife in the pangs of premature child birth. The terrible secret came out that her constitution had been utterly ruined by a half dozen previous crimes of abortion. The broken law of God "found her out" at last. Every woman who practices any method to destroy an unborn life does it at the peril of her own. The serpent stings the breast that harbors it.

That secret crimes for the prevention of offspring are fearfully prevalent and on the increase is an undoubted fact. One proof is found in the relative decrease of the size of families. A fine, bountiful progeny is frequently spoken of as an "old-fashioned family"—i. e., such a family as was common before the discovery of "sure and easy" arts of feticide. Other proofs are found in the shattered health of wives. Others still are furnished by the family physicians. Is it not time that this dangerous and diabolical crime was stopped? Should not every pulpit thunder against it? Should not physicians be plain and emphatic in their warnings to the wedded pairs whom they may suspect of these secret sins? They are not so "secret" as their perpetrators imagine. Murder will out!

But it is not alone among the married that the dens of child murder or the arts of abortion find their patrons. Thousands of the unmarried, who have sinned against God's law of chastity, flee to these accursed arts to hide their shame. The poor Pater-son girl, who was stung to death by this serpent, was but one of an increasing army of victims. Let us not stop with results, but go back to causes. Why is the sin of licentiousness (in all its phases) growing so rapidly?

One cause is the growth of a licentious literature. The unclean "frogs" are creeping up into the "kneading troughs." The news stands and the news rooms are stacked up with pictorial journals that are enough to make a harlot blush. One of these filthy sheets is reported to surpass *Harper's Weekly* in extent of publication. And every such lecherous paper that enters a family becomes a serpent in the nest. But the filthy journals do not stand alone. Some of the fictitious literature that is read by the rich and the cultured is fairly rotted through with immorality. Passion exciting books have pioneered more than one seduction. It is said that the only books found in brothels are novels.

A second source of demoralization has been the attractive indecencies of an indecent stage. Thousands of men and women have gone together (are we sure there were no church members among them?) to gaze on these lewd exhibitions. One thing these patrons of the licentious play-house ought to know, and that is that in God's sight those in front of the stage are just as guilty as the half-nude creatures who are on the

stage. We can tell how often an evening at the theatre has paved the way to such dens of death as Rosenzweig's and Restelle's.

A third root of licentiousness is found in the prevailing passion for display. The history of prostitution has proved how often infatuated women have been ready to defile their souls in order to decorate their bodies. A good man in Chicago, who took the trouble lately to answer some of the "Personal" advertisements, discovered that several of the female authors of them were intent on selling their honor to buy dresses! Satan baits his hook for men with dollars, and for women with dresses.

A fourth source of sexual immorality is the growing rage for social dissipation. These weaken the conscience, inflame the passions, and sensualize the very soul. The ball room, with its indelicate dress, and its promiscuous caresses, and its wine suppers, leads the giddy young man and maiden to the verge. The next step is—over the precipice. And young people ought to know that it takes but one step to go down Niagara! The poor, pitiable girls whose names have lately been dragged before a horror-stricken public, took but that single step. When and how they did it is known now only to Him into whose presence their sad and fatal sins have summoned them.

We are tempted to add still other fruitful causes of the sins against chastity that terminate in disgrace and self-destruction. But we have said enough to warn those who are most in danger. We have written these plain words mainly for the eyes and consciences of parents. Blessed be that household that has no serpents in the nest! "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." This whole subject is one of infinite moment to our whole people; for no nation has yet survived wide-spread unchastity.—Ex.

A PART OF THEIR RELIGION.—The *Denver Tribune* has the following:

The Mormon President has been at last arrested for that which the States of the country and the United States pronounce a crime, but which is sanctioned by the Mormon religion.

If we recollect aright, we have heard of J. S. Judges declaring that the "crime" in question was not a part of any religion. Whether a judge or an editor is the better authority on what is or is not a part of religion, may be a subject of controversy. We know very well what we consider a part of our religion, or sanctioned by it, much better than either the editor or the judge.

"BLOOD, IAGO!"—The *Omaha Herald* doubts the assurances of continued peace and quietness in Utah, as see the following—

There is trouble, serious trouble, brewing in Utah. Prominent Mormons, as well as other citizens who have just visited Salt Lake, assure us to the contrary, but we stick to the opinion that there is trouble coming in Utah. The indictment and certain arraignment of Brigham Young and other leading Mormons, on charges of having committed, not merely the crime of "Polygamy," but the real crimes of murder, and upon proofs of the kind that are certain to be manufactured to sustain them before juries from which, under McKean's preparatory decisions, all Mormons are excluded, means blood. It means nothing less, as events will show.

We hope the *Herald* will not be startled over much. Everything will work right eventually. The ring mean blood, and seek blood—everybody knows that! But they have not got everything their own way yet. There is a heavy majority against them, as we well know, and they will find out.

A number of married ladies in New York have clubbed together and agreed not to dance round dances with any except their own husbands. Good girls.

The false hair mania has invaded fashionable nurseries at the East, and ten year old belles are to be seen with long braids hitched on to their natural capillary covering.

A heroic father in Montreal chose fine and imprisonment rather than tell the census man the ages of his unmarried daughters.

In the Elgin watch factories 300 of the 500 employees are girls. These girls earn from \$10 to \$20 a week, and perform the delicate operations incident to the business more skillfully than men.

A short time since two fashionable young ladies were holding high converse over the virtue of a certain new dress. "And does it fit well?" asked one. "Fit as if I had been melted and poured in."

A poor Irishman offered an old saucepan for sale. His children gathered around him and inquired why he parted with it. "Och, me honeys," answered he, "I wouldn't be after parting wid it, but for a little money to buy something to put in it."

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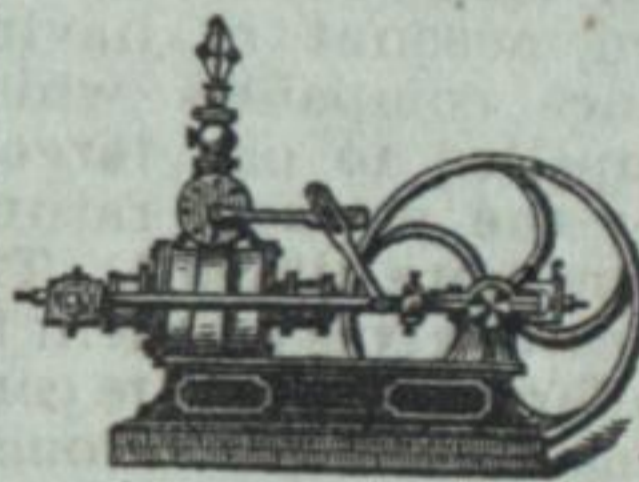
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## NOTICE!

TO Whom it may Concern: That cash entry for the Town site of Rockport, Summit County, Utah, made July 17, 1871, embracing the South half of NW quarter of section 4, and the north west quarter of SW quarter of section 4, Township 1 south, range 5 east, containing 120 acres, has been made, in trust for the inhabitants; and is now ready to be disposed of in lots, to any person or persons entitled thereto.

All persons claiming to be owners or possessors of any portion of said entry, will take due notice and make the application as provided in the statutes of Utah.

A. E. HINCKLEY, Probate Judge. w30 8m

Coalville, August 15, 1871.