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BEATH & CO., Christchurch.

knowing from sad experience the evils on every side—having been themselves their victims—who will not, *will* not des'roy the evils that are throttling their sons.

Is it any wonder that man's belief in physical necessity grows stronger with each generation, induced by the "downward direction of creative force through the unregulated desires," and through ignorance of the lasting and far-reaching effects of indulgence in sensuality? Is it any wonder that fatherhood is robbed of its divinity and is only an incident to him; that marriage is so often esteemed a jest and lightly entered into as only a licensed avenue for unbridled lust? Is it any wonder that the responsibility of children is thrust upon unwilling mothers and childhood robbed of its first birthright—the God-given right to be welcome and well born?

Thousands of unwelcome children are born every year—children conceived in sin and shapen in iniquity—both in and out of wedlock. Often they are the fruit of a drunken father's un governable passion. In one case "of three children born of a drunken father, one had the rickets, the second was the victim of melancholia, and had violent insane attacks, the third was a megacephalous idiot."

It is said that five thousand little babes are born every month in the United States having no legal father—five thousand deserted mothers and little homeless babes, sixty thousand fatherless children a year! Of these thousands of unwanted children, it is only the mother of an illegitimate child whose claim to her child is absolute—the father in this case wanting no claim, has none. In many of the States today, and in all of them until recent years, the lawfully born child belongs to the father, the law giving him the right to will away, to strangers, his unborn child.

Let the women who have all the rights they want, never forget that the repeal of these unjust laws and the equal right to their own children which the law now gives them, in some of the States, have been made possible by the uprising and the agitation of women in the last forty years. Let our women not forget, also, that what is needed now, in Texas, is a law making the father responsible for the support of his illegitimate child; a duty that has long been shirked and laid upon the mother, who alone is made to suffer for the sins of two. Let the women of Texas never rest until this just law is obtained.

How can the divinity of fatherhood be impressed upon the fathers of the future, for it

is to them we must look, if there is to be a higher standard?

First—Let our boys and girls be equally trained for parenthood, and taught that an equal responsibility rests upon both father and mother.

Second—Never excuse in a boy what you would not in a girl. In the home the double standard of morality is started, and here is where it should be stopped.

Third—Let the office of fatherhood be glorified by our sons being taught from a pure mother's lips its sacred trust. Let mothers teach the boys the sacredness of their bodies, the terrible and lasting effects of secret habits, and the purity of the sex relation as God intended it. The physical director of a Young Men's Christian Association told me that of one hundred fifty-six boys examined, only thirteen were found to be virtuous. These one hundred forty-three boys were the sons of the best families in the city, and all under sixteen years of age. Think what this means! Yet if told the majority of the mothers of these boys were the truth they would not believe it.

Fourth—Let them be taught that the birth chamber, where is settling down upon two souls the great responsibility of parenthood—a responsibility that must be accounted for at the judgment day—that the birth chamber, where a soul is coming *into* life rather than the death chamber, where a soul is going *out* of life, is the most solemn and sacred of all places.

Fifth—Let it be thoroughly impressed upon the mind of every boy and man that some day he will have to answer at the judgment bar of God the question, "Where is thy child, the immortal soul entrusted to thy keeping?"—regardless of who was the mother, regardless of whether she was white or black, pure or impure, wife or mistress.

Sixth—Above all the wife must be the sole owner of her body, and husbands ask as a favour what they now demand as a right.

Let us remember that the "people perish for lack of knowledge" in these days so near the Twentieth century, as surely as in the days when the prophets walked the earth.

Let us not forget that while the majority of men do not recognize the divinity of fatherhood, there is a minority who believe there is no sex in God's laws; who believe in a wife's ownership of herself; who keep their bodies under; who realize the responsibility and divinity of fatherhood, and who "live up to their best and not down to their worst." For

such men, let us thank God and take courage.

Upon woman devolves the work of teaching that fatherhood is divine. A heavy responsibility rests upon women for having for centuries permitted and encouraged the double standard of virtue by receiving into their homes and hearts a fallen man, while closing the door on a fallen woman; for having countenanced legal prostitution by selling themselves in wedlock for a home and to be supported; for having permitted men who are slaves to the tobacco, cigarette and drink habit to become fathers to their children.

While we know the economic dependence of woman has led to this deplorable state of affairs, still this does not lessen the responsibility of a awakened womanhood. It does not change the fact that parenthood and womanhood have been cheapened by the ignorance, indifference and criminal neglect of woman herself.

"She who may

On her own sweet self set her price,
 Knowing he can not choose but pay—
 How has she cheapened Paradise!
 How given for naught her priceless gift,
 How spoiled the bread and spilled the wine,
 Which spent with due respective thrift,
 Had made brutes men and men divine!"

This is a severe charge against our sex, but we cannot forget that every impure man is the son of some mother. Even if the mother did her full duty, she failed only because her teaching was counteracted by some woman's pernicious influence. Man and woman rise and fall together, neither ever fell without the aid of the other.

The ideas presented here for the elevation of fatherhood are not Utopian, too strained and far-reaching to be practical. All ideas that will add to the happiness and betterment of mankind should be aimed at and striven for, and, if never attained, the standard of life will at least be raised, all life will be held more sacred, our homes and the marital relations purified. Upon the sanctity and purity of the homes depend the real life of the nation.

If you forget all else I have said to-day, remember one thing, carry it to your home and teach it to your children and to your children's children, that the grandeur of motherhood depends upon the purity of fatherhood.

Only when this is pure, to the question, "Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with thy child?" can the mother truthfully and joyfully reply, "It is well."