

their degradation, or would not sink so far in its depths, but for this millstone of vice which they have hung with their own hands around their own necks. We may do much for them, and all of us are bound to do all that can be done in their behalf. We may give them civil privilege, we may give them personal attire and bodily sustenance, we may even instate them in honest and gainful occupations ; but if we succeed not in severing the manacles of immoral habits, we fail to rescue the object of our compassion. We leave the prisoner where we found him, in his cell and in his chains, and what is worse, we see the ransom we have tendered for his rescue perverted to the aggravation and perpetuity of his bondage. I am uttering no opinion on any proposed measures of amelioration. If they are submitted to us, let them be examined by us, and, if they are enlightened, let them be adopted. But what I say is, that well-doing is essential to well-being, and that while a moral transformation is not effected, all other amendments will be as the drop in the bucket, and the small dust in the balance, against the crushing preponderance of a degenerate con-