

many years. Such ravaging evils as consumption, scrofula, syphilis, and also many forms of mental disorders, are transmitted by inheritance to a great extent, and transferred by sickly parents to some of their children, or even to the whole of their descendants. Now, the longer the diseased parents, with medical assistance, can drag on their sickly existence, the more numerous are the descendants who will inherit incurable evils, and the greater will be the number of individuals, again, in the succeeding generation, thanks to that artificial "*medical selection*," who will be infected by their parents with lingering, hereditary disease.

A more dangerous and injurious form of selection even than medical selection, is that momentous process which we term "*clerical selection*," and which is practised by all powerful and united hierarchies. In every country where a centralized clerical body has exercised its destructive influence for centuries upon the education of the young, upon family life, and thus upon the principal foundations of the national life, the sad consequences of this demoralizing "*clerical selection*" are distinctly evident in the decay of culture and morality. We need only look at Spain, at this "most Christian" land in Europe! It is most obvious that the highest development of the power of the Roman Catholic Church, during the Middle Ages, coincides with the lowest decline of scientific inquiry and of morality in general. For its priests, being bound by that refined and immoral institution of celibacy, are obliged to seek admittance into the *sanctum sanctorum* of family life; and by their productivity there, transmit the immoral features of their nature upon a comparatively large number of descendants.