

Susan B. Anthony, Editorial. "Infanticide and Prostitution," *The Revolution*, February 5, 1868.

### **INFANTICIDE AND PROSTITUTION.**

SOCIAL EVIL STATISTICS.—The annual inspection report of the Captains of the Metropolitan Police of New York city and Brooklyn, gives the number of houses of prostitution as 523; of houses of assignation, 92; and of prostitutes, 2,097. This estimate, however, must be considered as only approximative, on account of the migratory character of the women to whom it relates, and because many of them reside in tenement houses and other dwellings, where their real character is unknown, and, it may be, unsuspected.— *Sun*.

CHILD MURDER—The horrible developments published the other day respecting a notorious "boarding-house" in this city, where mothers, married or unmarried, can be delivered of their offspring in the strictest confidence, and relieved of all the bothers of maternity, awaken serious reflection as to what ought to be done for the repression of the terrible social evil of which such establishments are at once the outgrowth and the promoters. The evil, we are sorry to believe, is on the increase. The murder of children, either before or after birth, has become so frightfully prevalent that physicians, who have given careful and intelligent study to the subject, have declared that were it not for immigration the white population of the United States would actually fall off. In a populous quarter of a certain large Western city it is asserted, on medical authority, that not a single Anglo-American child has been born alive for the last three years. This is incredible; but, making all due allowance for exaggeration, it is plain enough that the murder of infants is a common thing among American women.— *Tribune*.

Scarce a day passes but some of our daily journals take note of the fearful ravages on the race, made through the crimes of Infanticide and Prostitution.

For a quarter of a century sober, thinking women have warned this nation of these thick coming dangers, and pointed to the only remedy, *the education and enfranchisement of woman*; but men have laughed them to scorn. Let those who have made the "strong-minded" women of this generation the target for the gibes and jeers of a heedless world repent now in sackcloth and ashes, for already they suffer the retribution of their folly at their own firesides, in their sad domestic relations. Wives sick, peevish, perverse; children deformed, blind, deaf, dumb and insane; daughters silly and wayward; sons waylaid at every corner of the streets and dragged down to the gates of death, by those whom God meant to be their saviors and support. Look at these things no longer as necessary afflictions, sent to wean us from earth as visitations from Providence; but as the direct results of the violation of immutable laws, which it was our duty to study and

obey. In the midst of all these miseries, let us regard ourselves as guilty sinners and not helpless saints. God does not wink, even at the sin of ignorance.

We ask our editors who pen those startling statistics to give us *their* views of the remedy. We believe the cause of all these abuses lies in the degradation of woman.

Strike the chains from your women; for as long as they are slaves to man's lust, man will be the slave of his own passions.

Wonder not that American women do everything in their power to avoid maternity; for, from false habits of life, dress, food, and generations of disease and abominations, it is to them a period of sickness, lassitude, disgust, agony and death.

What man would walk up to the gallows if he could avoid it? And the most hopeless aspect of this condition of things is that our Doctors of Divinity and medicine teach and believe that maternity and suffering are inseparable.

So long as the Bible, through the ignorance of its expounders, makes maternity a curse, and women, through ignorance of the science of life and health find it so, we need not wonder at the multiplication of these fearful statistics. Let us no longer weep, and whine, and pray over all these abominations; but with an enlightened conscientiousness and religious earnestness, bring ourselves into line with God's just, merciful and wise laws. Let every thinking man make himself to-day a missionary in his own house. Regulate the diet, dress, exercise, health of your wives and daughters. Send them to Mrs. Plumb's gymnasium, Dio Lewis's school, or Dr. Taylor's Swedish movement cure, to develop their muscular system, and to Kuczkowski to have the rhubarb, the sulphur, the mercury and "the sins of their fathers" (Exodus xx. 5.) soaked out of their brains.

E. C. S.