

The Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice

(FOUNDED MARCH 19th, 1875)

Is an International Federation, having for its object the abolition of the official organisation and legalisation of prostitution, regarding such control as an official sanction to immorality, a grave hygienic mistake, a great injustice to women, and a moral and legal wrong involving the subversion of individual liberty and of the principles of constitutional government.

The Federation is independent of political party or religious sect, and welcomes as members men and women desirous of realising its object and contributing to its funds.

THE BRITISH COMMITTEE FOR INDIA AND THE BRITISH DOMINIONS

carries out (as its name implies) the principles of the Federation in reference to India and the British Colonies.

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P R E F A C E .

At the present time, when voices are being raised in England and elsewhere in favour of the re-establishment of the immoral, unjust, and unconstitutional Acts of 1866-69 for the regulation of prostitution, it is desirable that English people should be made more aware than they are at present of the weighty opinions expressed by persons of many Continental countries against this system, of which they have had a far longer experience than we in England had.

There is on the Continent, even among experts who have for many years upheld the system, an increasing conviction of its utter inutility from a hygienic point of view, and of its absurdity as well as as injustice in the inequality of its application.

Opinions regarding the complete failure of this system have been accumulating on every side, and would, if published, fill a volume. It seems well now and again to publish a few representative utterances, such as the following. The first of these comes from France, from the distinguished specialist, Dr. Mauriac, of Paris, who was for many years the most authoritative defender of the system of regulation in Europe. The second is the opinion of Herr Bebel, deputy to the German Reichstag and leader of the Socialist Party in Germany. The third is the expression of the opinion of a number of distinguished Catholic dignitaries of Belgium, who presented a Memorial on this subject to Pope Leo XIII. in the spring of 1894. This Memorial was also signed by the then Prime Minister in Brussels, and was supported by the Papal Nuncio in Belgium, who forwarded it to the Vatican.

These three opinions represent three very different kinds of authority, and emanate from persons of very opposite trains of thought, who regard the question from various points