know little of the bliss of home, and shrink from the responsibility, or even
the thought of providing them for themselves. They look not forward to
those happy and holy alliances, out of which issue the vitality of society,
and the growth, strength, and perpetuity of the community. So far from
this, we find them wasting their time, the prime of their life, and whatever
of substance they may have acquired, for that which produces only disgrace,
premature decay, and death. Far be it from us to overlook this picture;
we would fain color it less gloomily, if it were not deception to do
so. It is in the matter of statistics that we here so severely suffer.

Our opponents, with much boldness, we will not say with how much truth,
already assert that we are fast retrograding in point of numbers, and in the
vigor of our institutions. Of one thing we are certain; comfortable homes
and hearths, and correct culture and habits, tend to the increase of a people;
the reverse to their diminution. It is a matter of vital importance, then, to know
whether we are in this matter really advancing; or, it may be, receding.

We cannot dismiss this branch of our subject without briefly remarking
that the laws which govern health and longevity, claim also a share of our
attention, being intimately connected with it as well as affecting all our rela-
tions in society. In this connection, also, we can but express the hope that
scientific and medical men from among us, of acknowledged ability, be fos-
tered and encouraged; that this point in our social system, hitherto too much
neglected, receive due attention.

Finally, for the purpose of securing ourselves against encroachments, and
making provisions for future emergencies, should they arise, our relations re-
quire the speedy linking together of the whole chain of enlightened mind
among us, not only of the States, but of the whole continent into one grand
league, the consideration of which should be forthwith laid before you, in the
form of a well digested plan.

Since the whole object of our deliberations is to change and better our
condition, rather than to laud whatever of value may be found within the
pale of our social relations, we have preferred to bring forth in this report
only a few, but as we deem vital points, affecting adversely these relations.—
Nor have we sought to bring before you the more palpable evils, their existence
among us being too apparent, and their remedy of more easy application.

In conclusion, we remark the line of our policy is clear and explicit. It
must be so constructed as to produce.

First. An increased number of better regulated homes among us.
Second. Better fire-side and school culture.
Third. Such callings as will develop equally and fully ourselves and the
resources around us.
Fourth. A new impetus to business operations, and an enlargement of its
boundaries, by means of leagues, associations, &c., &c.
Fifth. A strict observance of, and reverence for the marriage institution,
and obedience to those laws which secure health and longevity.
Sixth. More enlightened views of the high and holy principles of morals
and religion.