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**Guild Gazette, 23rd November 1961**

**“Cornus” in Queer Street: Homosexual Opinion**

*… and the men of Sodom were very wicked and sinners before the face of the Lord beyond measure. – Gen. 13-10.*

**Should homosexuality be made lawful? Do we heed the plaintive calls of O-W- and other cultured sodomites or do we maintain our steadfast disgust and intolerance against such practices? These were the type of questions put to a number of ‘victims’ in the Liverpool district.**

The first subject, whom we shall call Tony, gave a short précis of his early life. Whilst still a young boy of six or seven years of age Tony was pampered by his mother and dressed in rather effeminate clothes. Unfortunately his father had died before he was born, and he was never offered the masculine examples usually associated with the father. Nor did he receive such influence from his neighbours or school friends. At school his rather ‘pretty’ clothes were the subject of comic merriment with his class-mates. The process continued with age and Tony realised that he was not being attracted sexually to girls, but rather boys. And the scene was set for the pattern of his adult life.

Suffering from a rather complicated inferiority complex, Tony maintains dogmatically that homosexuality should be made lawful, or at least condoned. ‘We cannot help it’, he maintains. ‘It is simply a biological disorder over which we have no control. It is there from the start and develops healthily the same way as normal sex impulses. Why then should I be the butt of every comedian and a natural foe of the law?’

*… and the Lord said: “The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is multiplied and their sin is becoming exceedingly grievous.” – (Gen. 15).*

Subject number 2 is a ladies’ hairdresser. We shall call him William. William admits he hates his crown of thorns. There are countless drawbacks and penalties attached to it, he confesses. ‘But I cannot help it. Some allowances must be made for unavoidable shortcomings: these are made for all other crimes save mine’. ‘Although’, he added, ‘in my case the word crime is unfitting’. William wonders whether homosexuality is a crime because society deems it to be such – or is there a God – Reason. Is it a moral stigma, and if so shouldn’t intercourse outside marriage between men and woman be similarly condemned because this is also immoral and certainly affects society more in the form of unwanted children.

As contrasted to Tony, William’s development was rather late. He went out with girls and enjoyed their company up to the age of 16. But from there his interest in them slackened and he came under the influence of an older man and gradually drifted into homosexuality.

William agrees that if he could tear himself away from his tendencies then he would do so. ‘I do try to control them as any rational being controls his or her failings, but the difficulty is that if ever I am discovered ten my circle of friends and employers are all affected and this is not very pleasant.’

*… but before they went to bed, the men of the city beset the house, both young and old … and the called Lot and said to hoim, where are the men that came in to thee at night. Bring them out hither that we may know them – (Gen. 19).*

The third and final subject is unemployed. He has been in prison for his offenses and is generally known to the police. At present he finds occasional employment as a barman and the money he earns from this enables him to have two meals a day.

Aged twenty-eight, subject number three whom we shall call Alphonse, compared himself to an inmate of the island of Lesbos and complaints that if there is no law against such conduct then why should there be against people like himself.

Alphonse offers no apologise for his tendencies, cannot understand why there should be ill-feeling and amusement and, worst of all, pity levelled at him and considers his position to be perfectly normal.

He confesses he has personal fancies, preferring young, dark youths to any others, but he insists the most important thing is personality. Social ostracism, he admits, make like rather difficult. But he feels certain that before long the law will turn its full circle and make his position tolerable.

Alphonse firmly believes that homosexuality will not be an undercurrent of corruption in the British Empire as it was in the Roman Empire, Man has increased mentally and physically, he maintains, since Roman times, and a heathier attitude will evolve eventually towards his kind.

*… “thou shalt not lie with man as with woman. It is an abomination”*

*(N.B.-Real anmes have been substituted by imaginary ones).*

