

our actual moral obligation has not yet been fully traced. At present the great destructive forces of mankind are found among our best society. The criminal classes do not contain the majority of wholesale murderers. Human life is held very cheap by both society and the church it is only taken by indirection. The man who poisons, who starves either the blood or the brain or the soul in the way of traffic is held guiltless even at the altar of God. The wonderful developments of the past half-century in material science compel like advances in moral and religious obligations. The time is coming when the man who willingly or ~~unwillingly~~ ^{knowingly} or negligently and carelessly imperils the life of any other man will be accounted equally guilty at the bar of public sentiment at least with him who from the same impulse of hate, from the stir of ambition or the sting of jealousy or greed takes human life with unlawful violence. We are nearing the time when that doctrine of the human life which holds a man responsible for gross negligence in the use of dangerous instrumentalities will be applied with more and more of regard to every class of society. When the human mind will instinctively inquire when pestilence rages, when accident slays, when earth or air or sea is poison, when the food that should strengthen is made the instrument of destruction, when human life is put in peril under the forms of law for the sake of blood-stained operations, where rests the responsibility. No act of charity, no act of public charity, can take

away from a life stained with the blood of a thousand victims
the memory of his guilt. Our moral development ^{has} ~~is~~ by no means
kept pace with our physical progress. The motive, the ex-
plicit, actual purpose to do harm to a specific individual
has too long been accounted the measure of responsibility for
human life. We have come to a point when the world must
learn that every man who threatens human life whether by in-
tent, by accident, by gross carelessness or by mere neglect
of his own strength and power becomes in the sight of God
and of civilization a member of the great firm of slaughterers
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