

can and does rule human fluctuations. Natural laws alone are binding, for Nature imposes her own punishments, and can coerce where man's potencies fail. Her processes are ruled by laws immutable. Chaos is inimical because it is the opposite to law, is prohibitory to progress. It can therefore never be permitted by Nature entirely to swamp humanity. So man makes his codes of law, builds up his standards of international ethics, till what time a stronger or more ruthless may come and let chaos, seemingly, loose again upon a tortured world.

The final test, therefore, is not so much what is or is not lawful, but what is or is not expedient. That Nature's action must needs be lawful was the excuse advanced by seventeenth-century theorists for the use of fire and smoke-balls. Nature wrought darkness; man might therefore copy her example and secure it, though by artificial means. "Balls which cast forth so great a smoak that they blind whomsoever they come near" were advocated by Simienowicz and by the author of "The Compleat Gunner" as "the most lawful way that one may follow, because it shews its original from natural things, and we may believe that this is alwayes sufficient justice, so that the wars where such things are practised be not unjustly enterprised." With blissful oblivion of this moral the latter writer proceeds next to discourse on "Stink Balls," which "are made to annoy the Enemy by their stinking vapours and fumes disagreeable to Nature." He further gives directions for the manufacture of poisoned bullets.

Whatever the anonymous writer of 1672 may have thought, the consensus of opinion has always been against such practices. Simienowicz, who wrote in 1649, though he considered *balles à fumée et à puanteur* were a means of *guerre loyal*, was not of the same way of thinking with regard to poisoned bullets and the fogs, storms, and thick mists made use of by Cossacks and Tartars in 1644 at Ochmatew. In 1675 we find *les Alliés conviennent, avec les Français, qu'il ne sera pas fait usage de balles empoisonnées*. Further arrangements were usual concerning the