

the decision of an impartial tribunal. The second arranged a convenient machinery for the adjustment of disputes which were not grave enough for war. If either party thought its honor involved, the quarrel at once passed beyond the scope of the treaty. Such a treaty though somberly acquiesced in at the time as the best that could be got, was a retrograde measure. It seemed to concur in the view that arbitration is suitable for trivialities, but is out of place when things that matter are in dispute. When in the feudal times the growing strength of the central power slowly forced the robber barons to surrender their right to wage private wars, there was a long period in which the right was still claimed when questions of boundaries of an estate were in issue. And to a much later period the feudal lord and the private gentleman claimed to be the sole judges when honor was impugned, and successfully asserted their right in such cases to oust the jurisdiction of the courts of the land, and to vindicate their cause with the sword. Slowly, but surely, those pretensions of a caste have been worn down, and under the steady pressure of the common sense of the people the practice of duelling—of private fighting with the intention to kill—has come to an end. It is a subject upon which the nations are not yet quite in line. In England, the man who killed his opponent in a duel would be most infallibly hanged; in other countries duels are still fought, but under conditions so thoughtfully arranged that a man may go through fifty "mortal combats" without being the worse for them. Under such circumstances, if a regrettable accident sometimes takes place, it is as much as though one of the combatants caught his death of cold through exposure to the damp air of an early morning meeting. For such an unexpected termination of the meeting none can be held seriously responsible. Unfortunately, we have not yet arrived at the same stage of progress in the management of international quarrels. We still claim the right of each to be the judge in his own case where honor or vital interest is concerned, and when wars come there is no make-believe. Still, those who note the growth of the juridical idea, and take count of the evolution which has ended serious duelling and led men to submit their honor and their characters to the decisions of judicial tribunals in actions for libel and slander and in the divorce courts, will be most certain that sooner or later the reign of law will extend further, and in the end control collective as well as private quarrels of whatever sort.