

As to telling the truth, hearing false witness which is now to be discussed, war can hardly claim much credit. Amhush is one of the expedients of war. It is a physical lie. There are more lies than those told by the lips. Any line of conduct that does not express your mind is a lie. Every deception is a lie. Sharp wit and practice that designedly misleads is a lie. Diplomacy is often a lie. Everything is lawful in war proves that all war is a lie, so that the enemy may be deceived and led into ambush. A country under the heel of penal laws will develop a peasantry equal to the "Scotland Yard" detectives in the keenness of their wit. They will evade and fool every law that the mind of man can make. They have to lie and steal and deceive in order to live. The character soon crumbles under this fiendish strain and soon they are not to be trusted in their intimate social relations for the forensic habit soon invades and destroys the fabric of conscience. A mother who teaches in the interest of something dear to her, say religion, her boy to lie and sneak and deceive his father will reap the whirlwind in the character that will soon deceive her and all society as well as the father. The general or officer soonest promoted is the man whose army can so lie as to catch the enemy napping and mow them down like the reapers do in Autumn. You say the moral standards of peace cannot be applied to war. Do you admit that there are two moral standards? Can a public man do what a private man cannot do? Can a soldier do what a civilian cannot do? Answer that! There is a palliation, if not a compensation, in this that when each knows the other is lying, it would be silly to suspect him of telling the truth. But does that lessen the moral depravity that seems to be in the fibre, the very woof and web of war? By no means. To win in war one must keep his buckles and bayonets bright, leave his conscience and heart at home with his mother; and go right in like the wild beasts in the jungle till he gets his prey. The tiger lies when he sneaks silently up on his victim and so does the soldier. War is a lie.

Concupiscence is a generic term. It was coined to codify the desires men experience to the end that they preserve themselves and society. Desires are therefore good in themselves and were designed by the Creator for the necessary and useful ends of cosmic economy. It is trite to say that it is the abuse of the subliminal laws that constitutes the crime or the sin. War is concupiscence—world-concupiscence. War is social concupiscence. The desire to have dominion, power and wealth was more than anything else at the bottom of this war. To have Asia and Africa if not America in contribution—paying tribute was the ambition of the German Junkers and