

In the Fire of the Heart

or another suffering for that injury himself. Why? It is so written in the Law of the Universe, that's all. And we do likewise well to remember — one can never do a real loving, unselfish, kindly act without deriving a benefit from such act himself; and if at any time there are apparent exceptions to this it is, I believe, because our limited vision does not enable us to see the total relationship of human actions.

"No man in the world ever attempted to wrong another without being injured in return,—some way, somehow, sometime. The only weapon of offence that nature seems to recognize is the boomerang. Nature keeps her books admirably; she puts down every item, she closes all accounts finally, but she does not always balance them at the end of the month."*

As the life of a man is of more value to him than the house in which he lives, so the possession and growth of the faculties that enable him to enjoy the things that pertain to and that spring from the inner life are of more value to him by way of bringing him happiness and contentment than any possible accumulation of material things. Wealth is good — as a means to comfort; good as a servant, never as a master; good as a feature, never as the chief end of life.

One of the most pitiable sights that I know is the way some very rich men die; several such deaths have transpired during even the past year. Let the following serve as the type of many. A man has made gain —

* From that excellent little booklet "The Majesty of Calmness," by William George Jordan.