

approval of the priestly class was so dreaded and was fraught with so serious a social consequence. Perhaps even to-day the disapprobation of our friends and of our neighbours may be made more potent for punishment than any pain or penalty or suit for damage that the law may sanction. Even now it is often the disgrace which comes from a conviction in the courts of law which men dread rather than the fine or imprisonment or monetary loss which results therefrom. The cases, indeed, are not uncommon where the men have been compelled to leave the communities in which they have lived, because at times of accident by drowning or fire they have hesitated in risking their own lives in order to save those of others. The brand of cowardice is even to-day of far-reaching injury to its wearer. The doctrine, indeed, that "one's first duty is to himself and to his family" and that "self-preservation is the first law," has never met with an unqualified support among a people such as ours whose very civilization is grounded on heroic self-sacrifice.

These Hebrew codes, it is true, say but little about the first aid to the injured as we now use the term. They say much, however, about the duty to the suffering and to the stranger within the gates. The duty of personal aid in the hour of distress, the manly and hospitable nomad and frontiersman takes for granted, and it is only the class selfishness of a crowded civilization which causes it to be forgotten. The care, indeed, which the Hebrew law enjoined concerning the property of the helpless, must have premised a regard for his life also. "If thou meet thine enemy's ox or ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again," the code of torah says. "If thou see the ass of him who hateth thee lying prostrate under its burden, thou shalt in no case leave it in its plight; rather thou shalt, together with him, help it up." "Thou shalt not see thy fellow Israelite's ox or his sheep going astray and withhold thy help from them; thou shalt surely bring them again to thy brother. And if thy fellow Israelite do not live near thee, or if thou do not know him, then thou shalt bring it home to thine house, and it shall be with thee until thy fellow Israelite seek after it; then thou shalt restore it to him again.