

ianity on the barbaric and half civilized society of Europe was the new position which it gave to woman; and the sacred value it attached to marriage. As centuries go on, the test of advancing civilization is the social, legal and political position of the weaker sex. Human society rises out of its low estate, not merely by elevating woman, but also by curbing the barbaric passion for blood revenge. The first influence of a love and faith towards Jesus Christ is to lead men to imitate and obey Him by controlling revenge and hatred. A feudal and wild society, falls naturally into "private war" where each chieftain "fights for his own hand." Europe was nearly reduced to anarchy under these uncontrolled habits. The figure which appeared in the storm, and quieted, if only for a time, the waves of strife, was Christ.

The arbitration of the middle ages are the fruits at once of the Christian and of the commercial spirit; they show the first settlement of European society, and foreshadowed that higher system of Christian arbitration which shall yet reform the relation of nations. The "wager of battle" and the "ordeal" were opposed from the beginning to the spirit of the "Religion" of Humanity. The teachings of Christ allowed no such mode of testing facts or obtaining justice as "single combat." As His spirit has slowly imbued, more and more, individuals of all classes, the barbarous "judicial duel" dropped out of use, even as his influence in modern times has swept away the "duel of honor."

The Jewish religion and the Gospel of Jesus both taught protection to the stranger and help to the unfortunate. The old abuses inflicted on the stranger and