

expression, and custom bound the observance of them on the conscience with an ever-increasing sense of obligation. Thus step by step a more or less complete system of morals was formed by one nation after another, some being ultimately committed to writing, others wholly oral or consuetudinary.

A comparison of these codes, even when formed most independently of each other, shows that, as to the main principles which underlie them, they are substantially in agreement. The conditions and needs of all human society are so far alike everywhere that this is inevitable; for, consciously or unconsciously, every man in his inmost soul has always recognized in his own wishes for himself the suggestion and guide of how he ought to treat others, and up to a certain point public opinion, backed by force if necessary, will always strive to compel the recognition of that standard. But while this is true in general, every separate tribe or group of people forming one organization had also some peculiar customs and ideas of its own, begotten by special conditions or copied from leading men's example. The value of these peculiarities was constantly being tested by time and experience. So that it might be said a great variety of experiments in morals were constantly being conducted side by side in the world. Those which worked badly were sooner or later eliminated, sometimes through the extermination of the peoples whom they had degraded and weakened. Those which worked well continued and spread until they came into contact with something still better, before which they in turn disappeared. And thus, slowly but surely, the moral education of the race was advanced.

From one point of view it might be said that this advance was naturalistic. That is, it was in accordance with the laws that govern human society at all times and under all conditions. There was nothing unnatural or forced about the process. Given beings with human capacities and living under human conditions and it could not have been different from what it was. But for him who has eyes to see it there is a divine element in all life and in all history. God's providence guides all things and all nations towards the