

“THOU SHALT NOT STEAL”

“Thou shalt not steal,” the Nation said, and then it
turned its eyes
To a struggling state that was sapped and weak, and it
seemed an easy prize;
So the arm of the mighty nation took, with fingers drip-
ping red,
As it stole the life of a sister state from the hands of the
noble dead.

“Thou shalt not steal,” the Magnate said, “I do not like
the word,
In a business sense misunderstood by the simple, com-
mon herd;
I had rather pay for the things I need,” and so, without
delay,
He bought a legislature that had wisdom to obey.

“Thou shalt not steal,” the Law declares, and the sin-
ner must pay the price,
And the world abhors the petty thief who falls to the
common vice,
But the rich and the good and the powerful may steal
—if they do it well—
And the world sends them to heaven, but it sends the
poor—to hell!