

hanged if I let God himself say what I should or should not do! I knew most of human laws had been jobbed by shark lobbyists to fill their own pockets, and I thought about the same of the Ten Commandments—they were good for fellows to keep who weren't strong enough to break 'em and defy consequences!

"But that's where I made my mistake—I tell you! I wasn't scientific enough! 'Thou shalt not steal' isn't the rule of a God who's a martinet! 'Thou shalt not steal' isn't said to keep me from doing something I want to! It's a fact, a matter-of-fact statement, just as much as 'Thou shalt not put thy hand in the fire without being burned!' Commandments aren't given as orders! They're statements of facts, the same as scientific laws; statements of the eternal order of things by which the Almighty-Some-One runs His job! That's it, True, and don't you forget it! I knew all this that night I bucked up against Lynch Law, when you saved me with your motor! That's the mistake Louie made, too, you know! Only she dressed her excuses up in high-faluting nonsense about 'self-satisfaction, and Jove heing above law,' 'and the gratification of impulses being right because they spring from the soul, which is a part of God.' I don't see much difference between Louie's reasoning and the modern gabblers, who say 'commerce is too complicated' for the old-fashioned limits! By Jove, True, I wish she were here to-night! I think we could both see things as we never did before! You know she realized