

This is the course I have adopted, before coming before you this evening to try and explain on psychological grounds the *cause* of the unhappy troubles that have so lately brought disgrace upon our city, and which have left such evil results behind them.

Were the question to be examined from a religious stand-point, the occurrences that took place would be totally incomprehensible to any intelligent man no matter what his religion might be, (an educated Hindoo, for example) from the very fact that all those who were directly or indirectly the cause of all those disturbances, no matter how much they differ in doctrinal points, all call themselves Christians, they all profess that their religion teaches them to offer no insult to any man, to give no man cause of offence or scandal, to love their neighbour, and have charity one towards another; so that from a religious stand-point to the intelligent man, the whole proceeding would be totally incomprehensible, we can well imagine our educated Hindoo, looking upon Christianity, to be a religion whose followers murdered one another for the love of God. And if, Gentlemen, these riots are incomprehensible from a religious stand-point, how much more are they incomprehensible from a national stand-point, seeing that all the actors were of the same nation, a people that, moreover, are always boasting that they are the most civilized, and intelligent people of peoples, the very cream of nations? therefore, gentlemen, upon national grounds, these troubles are incomprehensible. How then are they to be explained? We are, of necessity, forced to fall back upon science to try in some degree, at least, to comprehend why Christian men of the same nation, will murder each other for a sentiment, for that it was sentimentalism on both sides, I am sure every scientific man will admit without any proof from me.

In previous papers read before this Society I endeavoured to establish the fact, that man was naturally the most destructive of all animals, for while other animals destroy that they may live, man destroys for the very pleasure he derives from destroying. Take, for example, the sportsman, who is generally the very best sample of the animal man, and we find whether shoot-