

no bounds, and generally takes the form of new and better resolves.

Here, then, the danger was terribly apparent, and we were greatly frightened, but the real danger was proportionably less; besides, we only stood a chance of getting bruised or maimed, and the thing that threatened and the object menaced were material. There is the glaring danger, also, betokening hostility and manifest design; but it need not be dreaded by any one tolerably courageous, and not utterly defenceless. At the same time, this is the form we take the greatest pains to guard against, and on those points most conspicuously exposed, we mass all our forces, and, standing firm on the outer bulwark that shields the Palladium, defy the enemy openly, boldly.

In our general appreciation of danger, this is the system of defence most commonly adopted and relied on; it is commendable, and virtue, armed to the teeth to repel boarders, may find it sufficient in cases of glaring danger or open hostility. But there is another greater danger, where this defence utterly fails; indeed, to the wary invader the very show of so much determination indicates, if not debility, at least vulnerability; and in all this display of defensive armament, there is an evidence of conscious weakness. Most evil finds its greatest triumph where the purest virtue sits enthroned; but, while the most impregnable strongholds may offer the strongest resistance, where, in all history, do we find one that has not yielded to the final assault. We have noticed that because danger is very glaring, it does not follow the actual peril need be very great—it is then only comparatively alarming, and as a rule, proportionately less.