

it can stand its ground through all the hours which intervene between the desire and its fulfilment; how meanwhile the visitations of reflection and remorse have been kept at a distance, or all been disregarded; how with relentless depravity, the purpose has been adhered to, and the remonstrances of conscience or perhaps the entreaties of virtuous friendship have all been set at nought; how, with a hardihood that could brave alike the disgrace and the condemnation which attach to moral worthlessness, he could proceed with unfaltering step from the reprobate design to its full and final accomplishment—nor suffer all the suggestions of his leisure and solitude, however affecting the thought of that innocence which he is now on the eve of forfeiting, or a tenderness for those relatives who are to be deeply wounded by the tidings of his fall, or the authority of a father's parting advice, or the remembrance of a mother's prayers, to stay his hand.

9. That an action then be the rightful object either of moral censure or approval, it must have had the consent of the will to go along with it. It must be the fruit of a volition—else it is utterly beyond the scope, either of praise for its virtuousness or of blame for its criminality. If an action be involuntary, it is as unfit a subject for any moral reckoning, as are the pulsations of the wrist. Something ludicrous might occur, which all of a sudden sets one irresistibly on the action of laugh-