

we do a thing constitutes manners, the root of manners is our inmost thoughts and feelings. These may be disguised at times, but sooner or later they will appear in some common, unpremeditated act.

Metastasis says: "All is habit in man, kind, even virtue itself," and the force of habit is strikingly shown in one's manners. A person may become so accustomed to performing certain acts and courtesies that he repeats them instinctively; but if they are not prompted by genuine goodness and unselfishness, the manner of their execution will soon lead one to understand their true motive. SKRAP.

"ONCE BIT, TWICE SHY."

It is a happy provision for weak human nature that with experience for a teacher there is no necessity of being caught twice in the same trap.

When even the unintelligent brutes can scarcely be entrapped a second time in the same place by the same means, why should not *we*, using common sense, cool heads, and steady hands, prevent a second disastrous mistake? Of what *use* is experience if not to teach us how to avoid the breakers on which so many have been wrecked? Its lessons should *all* point to the dangerous shallows and sharp edged rocks lying *all around our pathway*. And these lessons we should be careful to remember, taking the past for our teacher, that we may the better prepare ourselves to meet the exigencies of the future.

Or, as Alice Cary has said:

What thy experience teaches true,
Be vigilant to heed:
The wisdom that we suffer too,
Is wiser than a creed.

Why is it that we are constantly making so many mistakes? Why are so many lives almost useless, wholly frittered away, producing no fruit, with no garnered sheaves to show at the close of the harvest as the result of labors well performed. Surely not because men may not

learn, if they only will, that success depends to a great extent, if not entirely upon the personal exertions, foresight, and common sense reasoning of each individual, that they may win in the battle of life and come off conquerors, for life is what we make it. Some one has said: Trying, trying, always trying, falling down to save a fall; but why may we not have it: Winning, winning, always winning, triumphs through our failures rise?

And these failures of others, if rightly used, might become the stepping stones to many more. One man's fault is another man's lesson, and the defeat of the one becomes the victory of the other. No ship at sea, following in another's pathway, need be wrecked on the same shoals or strike on the same rock and sink to the bottom. If your neighbor's house be struck with lightning and destroyed, for want of proper protection, it is your own fault if, during the next storm, yours too falls to the ground.

Upon the reasons of your brother's failure you may build your own success.

Experience would teach the world, if her influence were not overbalanced by ambition and foolish pride, those lessons which, if faithfully learned, might save many of the grave mistakes constantly committed.

The perversity of human nature destroys, in a great measure, the beneficial results which would follow if her precepts were fulfilled.

Vanity, also, too often leads one to disregard the wise teachings of experience, and to blindly persist in trying everything for himself. Perhaps it is because one hates to be smothered, even by truth, that if all the world should say the shield is silver, one would wish all the more to creep round to that back corner over there and look out of the eyes of that one poor ghost who dares to say that it is gold: unwilling to accept anything as truth even from older and wiser heads than his own.

Modesty is fast becoming an antique