

When governed by reason, sensibility is certainly an excellent quality ; but when left to self, it causes countless sorrows to those whose daily actions it pervades, and to the companions who must suffer its outbursts. He who learns to master it, will ward off the greater number of life's poisonous shafts. But the difficulty comes from this : susceptibility is seldom identical in two persons. It varies according to different natures, and generally concerns some special point. There is no danger at hand as long as some particular question is not discussed, or provided no pretensions are evinced in a certain line or matter. That question, or idea, or matter is some person's weak spot, and woe be the one who touches it. The ground is private, sacred ; and fire and brimstone await the unwary trespasser. No friendship however old, no relationship however near, will shield the innocent offender. To attempt a word of explanation would only cause the gathering clouds to darken and burst.

Love of self or human pride is generally the cause of all this. Everyone knows by experience how easily conceited persons are wounded, hurt. Caprice is their governing law. When really domineering, they think that they are simply enforcing *their* authority within just and lawful bounds, etc. Such persons are seldom or never reasonable. Constantly fearing to see their so-called privileges or rights trampled upon, ignored, they live in a perpetual state of jealousy, uneasiness. They are ever ready to suspect without any real grounds for mistrust. Their narrowmindedness causes their presence to be a perfect « plague » to others. Whether speaking or silent, working or resting ; one is always uncertain how the act will be received by the victim of self-love ; it will probably be looked upon as some hostile movement, part of a conjuration discovered just in the « nick » of time.

Such a manner of viewing matters will naturally render one's life miserable ; its horizon will be ever covered with dark frowning clouds of discontent which no amount of good will in old age, will be capable of dispersing in order to let through a ray of happiness. Yes, such persons are really unhappy and to be pitied, because they can never believe in the