

Not the Best Way.

"Our own way" is not always the best way. It is too often a secret way which is known only to ourselves. There is incomparably more depth and deceit in the human heart than we give it credit for possessing. The processes of reasoning which go on within the innermost recesses of the conscience are strongly intelligent in their wickedness and treachery. If a man will deal honestly by himself in secret, he will find that he is rarely ever the dupe of his own folly or the victim of his weakness. When what is called a "temptation" assails him, he is not overcome—he really and unconsciously yields; he is fully aware of the course he is pursuing, and has his wits about him as he goes. If any one doubts this, he cannot have studied his own mind-processes to any good purpose. We say, and say fearlessly, that no adult or young person falls a second time by the same or similar form of temptation without being aware of the precise moment that he or she knowingly and intentionally determines to go wrong. This will seem a strong—perhaps it may even be deemed a rash and erroneous—statement, but it is simple assertion of fact, which, although it may be gainsaid, cannot be controverted. It is "our own way" we take when we do amiss and go astray, and we know it is so when we thus act. Infinite moral harm is done by the wilful denial of this position. It is not an honorable position, and it is one of which we may well be heartily ashamed: but it is the position we occupy, and the truth ought to be told. Those who plead the overmastering power of impulse or passion, or who to find refuge behind the pretence of "temptation," are playing false to themselves and their consciences. They cannot plead this excuse. No man falls a second time into the same snare without perceiving that it is a trap; and human nature is neither so weak as to yield nor so foolish as to be led astray. It goes wrong and does wrong of its own motion and consciously. We walk in "our own way" to destruction. Unless impulse is superseded by reason, our own way is apt to be a dangerous one.

How Plate Glass is Made.

To cast, roll, polish and burnish plate glass requires machinery of peculiar construction, and a "plant" that is costly by reason of its complex nature. The pouring of liquid glass from the furnace upon the cast iron plates, and the subsequent rolling, are processes comparatively simple. Any housekeeper who has used a rolling-pin on a batch of pie-crust dough, performs an operation very similar to this stage of plate glass making. It is the succeeding processes of grinding and polishing and final burnishing that requires time and costly mechanism. After leaving the rolls and bed plate the glass is rippled and rough, and only fit for gratings and skylights. Each plate must be transferred to machines that resemble the turn-tables of a railway. On the revolving platform the glass is cemented into a bed of plaster of Paris, and the machine starts.

Bearing heavily on the surface of the glass are blocks of metal, and while in motion the surfaces are kept supplied with sharp sand and a constant stream of water. The next stage of the glass grinding process is the same as to machinery, but instead of sand coarse emery is used. The finer emery is used in another revolving table, and so on for half a dozen times. The final polishing is done by heavy reciprocating devices, fed with rouge, and maintaining a constant back and forward motion, and also lateral movement over the surface of the crystal. All this requires the assistance of a large force of men, many of them skilled laborers. After going through these different grindings and polishing, the plate that measured an inch in thickness is only three-quarters of an inch thick, has lost all its roughness, and is ready for the show window of the purchaser.—*Pittsburg Telegraph.*

A WONDERFUL LAKE IN IOWA.—The greatest wonder in the State or Iowa, and perhaps in any other State, is what is called the Walled Lake, in Wright County, twelve miles north of the Dubuque and Pacific Railway, and 150 miles west of Dubuque City. The lake is two or three feet higher than the earth's surface. In some places the wall is ten feet high, fifteen feet wide at the bottom, and five feet wide on the top. Another fact is the size of the stone used in the construction,

the whole of them varying in weight from three tons down to 100 pounds. There is an abundance of stones in Wright County, but surrounding the lake, to the extent of five or ten miles, there are none. No one can form an idea of the means employed to bring them to the spot, or who constructed it. Around the entire lake is a belt of woodland half a mile in length composed of oak. With this exception, the country is a rolling prairie. The trees must have been planted there at the time of the building of the wall. In the spring of the year 1856 there was a great storm, and the ice on the lake broke the wall in several places, and the farmers in the vicinity were obliged to repair the damages to prevent inundation. The lake occupies a ground surface of 2,800 acres; depth of water as great as 25 feet. The water is clear and cold, soil sandy and loamy. It is singular that no one has been able to ascertain where the water comes from nor where it goes, yet it is always clear and fresh.

THE CHANGES IN THE FROG.—Nowhere in the animal kingdom is there so favorable an opportunity for peeping into Nature's workshop as in the metamorphoses of the frog. This animal is a worm when it comes from the egg, and remains so the first four days of its life, having neither eyes nor ears, nostrils, nor respiratory organs. It crawls, and it breathes through its skin. After a while a neck is grooved into the flesh, and its soft lips are hardened into a horny beak. The different organs one after another, bud out; then a pair of branching gills; and last, a long and limber tail. The worm has become a fish. Three or four days more elapse, and the gills sink back into the body, while in their place others come much more complex, arranged in vascular tufts, 112 in each,—yet they, too, have their day, and are absorbed, together with their framework of bone and cartilage, to be succeeded by an entirely different breathing apparatus, the initial of a second correlated group of radical changes. Lungs are developed, the mouth widened, the horny beak converted into rows of teeth, the stomach and the intestines prepared for the reception of animal food instead of vegetable. Four limbs, fully equipped with hip and shoulder bones, with nerves and bloodvessels, push out through the skin, while the tail, being now supplanted by them as a means of locomotion, is carried away piecemeal by the absorbents, and the animal passes the rest of its life as an air-breathing and a flesh-feeding batrachian.

"Old Dominion."

This term, which is so expressive and significant to every Virginian, is said to have had its origin as follows: During the protectorate of Cromwell the colony of Virginia refused to acknowledge his authority, and declared itself independent. Shortly after, when Cromwell threatened to send a fleet and army to reduce Virginia to subjection, the Virginians sent a message to Charles II., who was then an exile in Flanders, inviting him to return on the the ship with the message, and be king of Virginia. Charles accepted this invitation, and was on the eve of embarkation, when he was called to the throne of England. As soon as he was fairly seated on the throne, in gratitude for and recognition of the loyalty of Virginia, he caused her coat-of-arms to be quartered with those of England, Scotland, and Ireland, as an independent member of the empire, a distant portion of the Old Dominion. Hence arose the origin of the term. Copper coins of Virginia were issued even as late as the reign of George II., which bore on one side the coat-of-arms of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Virginia.—*Potter's Monthly.*

PARENTAL PARTIALITY.—There is a fatal danger in family government, from which we would warn every parent; and that is, partiality. It is too often the case that fathers and mothers have their favorite child. From this, two evils result. In the first place, the pet usually becomes a spoiled child; and the "flower of the family" seldom yields any other than bitter fruit. In the second place, the neglected part of the household feel envy toward the parent that makes the odious distinction. Disunion is thus sown in what ought to be the Eden of life a sense of wrong is planted by the parent's hand in the heart of a part of his family, an example of injustice is written on the soul of the offspring by him who should instill into it, by every word and deed, the holy principles of equality.