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## Our Human Shortcomings

*I vividly remember my grandfather telling me to examine my conscience every night before going to sleep and have a good look at myself — what I have done today and what I have failed to do. On your findings you will have a better understanding of yourself in order to rebuild the new day ahead.*

*It is quite revealing, after adhering to your examinations for some considerable time, to find that you have fallen in so many ways and have committed so many shortcomings that you get tempted to throw your good intentions to the wind — “It is astonishing how soon the whole conscience begins to unravel if a single stitch drops — one single sin indulged in makes a hole you could put your head through”. (C. Buxton). “Conscience is justice’s best minister, it threatens, promises, rewards and punches, and keeps all under its control—the busy must attend to its remonstrances; the most powerful submit to its reproof, and the angry endure its upbraidings — While conscience is our friend, all is peace, but if once offended, farewell to the tranquil mind.” (Mary Wortley Montague).*

*However, we are only human and will find it very hard to keep on the right side of the road and if we have committed against our neighbour, we must try to restore our tranquility by going to that neighbour and ask him for forgiveness. We also must restore everything that does belong to him. Should we have offended against the neighbour’s good name things do become more critical as it is repeated sometimes so many times that restitution does become almost impossible. Therefore the age-old saying that we must keep a guard on our lips has always been the most important factor in our life, remember . . . Do not unto others what you would not like to have done to you.*

*Most of us see the splinter in our neighbour’s eye and cannot see the proverbial plank in our own, and we are therefore well advised to make the first move on ourself.*

—W.R.