

But there is a yet greater difficulty and a more perplexing paradox in human nature, and this is not so much in the intellectual as in the moral world. This is the problem of evil, and still more the contrast of Determinism and Freedom. Looking at life from one point of view, we are more and more forced to see a necessity in all events, and the scientific view of nature which includes human individuals in its purview leads us to seek for every event or action a determining cause, leaving as it were no room for freedom of choice. Thus also, in dealing with the conduct of other persons, or ourselves, it seems nearly always possible to show that in antecedent and surrounding circumstances a compelling reason may be found for just that which has been done or happened. On the other side, as soon as we individually attain to the idea of Right we are forced to admit the possibility of Wrong. This comes home to us in the early experience of self-reproach and remorse which follows upon certain of our thoughts and deeds if we review them after they have been entertained or committed. This experience necessitates us to conclude that we might have thought or acted differently, and the reproach which we cannot get rid of involves the idea of freedom or liberty of action. The wrong then appears not only as a failure in doing what was right, but as guilt or sin; and further, as something in our nature which we must strive to get rid of. Evil in this form of sin strikes us thus as being both inherent in our nature, and on the other side also as something essentially foreign to it, the power of which we