

# THE STAR.

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## PHILOSOPHIC REFLECTIONS,

By Plato. Paper No. IV.

### INSTINCT.

Closely connected with the philosophy of human intelligence is the science of INSTINCT, or the intelligence of the brute—a subject of interest not merely in its relations to psychology, but to some other sciences, as Natural History and Theology.

But with regard to this matter, it must be confessed at the outset, that we work, in some respects, in the dark, in our enquiries and speculations concerning it. It lies wholly removed from the sphere of consciousness. We only observe; compare and infer; our conclusion thus derived must be liable, after all, to error. The operation of our own mind we know by the clearest and surest of all sources of knowledge, viz., our own consciousness; the operation of brute intelligence must be ever, in a great measure unknown and a mystery to us. How far the two resemble each other, and how far they differ, it is not easy to determine, not easy to draw the dividing line, and say where brute intelligence stops and where human intelligence begins.

This subject is an abstruse and prolific one, and we can not handle it all in one letter; therefore we will say a little more on it, and lay it over till next week. Let us in the first place, then, define INSTINCT the term usually applied to denote brute intelligence, and ascertain if possible, what are its peculiar characteristics; we may then be able to determine wherein it differs from intelligence in man.

We understand by instinct, a law of action, governing and directing the movement of sentient beings—distinct, on the one hand from the mere blind forces of matter, as attraction, etc., and from reason on the other; a law working to a given end by impulse, yet blindly—the subject not knowing why he thus works; a law innate, inherent in the constitution of the animal, not acquired but transmitted, the origin of which, is to be found in the intelligent author of

the universe. These we take to be the principal characteristics of that which we term instinct.

### THAT DISOUSSION.

Messrs Dunlap and Kneeland met at a School house a few miles out of town to debate politics on last Saturday evening. Joe, it appears was chuck full of —DEMOCRACY, which did not mar his Demosthenic power of oratory a particle, but rather sharpened them if anything, as was demonstrated soon after he took the stand, so keen and sharp were his javelins of invective, and his scathing, withering expose of Republican corruption. He finally became so enthusiastically bitter, that he brought forth and delivered himself of an old full grown offer—and we are satisfied he meant it—to wit; furnish our darky Barbers with a suit of "TANNERS TOGGERY," if the Republicans would let them grace their ranks in Tuesdays turn out. Some of the boys at this junction were mean enough to insult Mr. Dunlap by reminding him of a little bill he owed the darkies for shaving, which nearly produced a row. Such insults from the rabble, no matter what their dress—should not be allowed at a respectable debate, and we denounce it.

*Mc Pherson House,*

*Railroad Eating House,*

All Freight trains, and Bloomington

Accommodation stop for Meals.

**East of Railroad.**

**J. R. Steele, Pro'vr.**