

# THE STAR.

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## The Dwight Star,

Devoted to local interests, is published every Thursday by C. L. Palmer.

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RATES OF ADVERTISING made known on application.

### PHILOSOPHIC REFLECTIONS.

By Plato. Paper No. IX.

Editor Star:

You ask me to take up the subject of INSTINCT once more, as many of your readers are anxious to have me "continue to ventilate that subject to its outside limit. I should be glad to do so if I were in the mood, to follow the subject farther. Your readers however must indulge me for the present on other subjects, with the Festus-like promise that they will hear from me on Instinct, "at a more convenient season." This week I will speak of

### CHEERFULNESS AND ITS OPPOSITE.

There is a state of mind, of which every one is at times conscious, without any immediately exciting cause, a general liveliness and joyousness of spirit, seldom rising to the definiteness of a distinct emotion, a subdued and under-current of gladness, seems to fill the soul, and flow on through all its channels. It is not so much itself joy, as a disposition to be joyful; not so much a visible sun in the heavens, as a mild, gently diffused light filling the sky, and bathing all objects in its serene loveliness and beauty. It has been well termed, "a sort of perpetual gladness."

Now for its prevalence at different periods of life—There are those, of fortunate temperament, with whom this seems

to be the prevailing disposition, to whom everything wears a cheerful and sunny aspect. Of others, the reverse is true. In early life this habitual joyousness of spirit is more commonly prevalent; in advanced years, more rarely met with, whether it be that the age has chilled the blood, or that the sober experience of life has saddened the heart, and corrected the more romantic visions of earlier years, as life passes on we are less habitually under the influence of this disposition. It is no longer the prevailing frame of the mind. In the beautiful language of another. "We are not happy, without knowing why we are happy, and though we may be still susceptible of joy, perhaps as intense, or even more intense, than in our years of unreflecting merriment our joys must arise from a cause of corresponding importance; yet even down to the close of extreme old age there still recurs occasionally some gleams of this almost instinctive happiness, like a vision of other years, or like those brilliant and unexpected corruscations which some times flash along the midnight of a wintry sky, and of which we are too ignorant of the circumstances that produce them, to know when to predict their return."

Corresponding to this general state of mind now described, is one of quite the opposite character—that habitual disposition to sadness which is usually called melancholy. Like its opposite, cheerfulness, it is rather a frame of the mind than a positive emotion, and, like its opposite, it exists, often, without any marked and definite cause to which we can attribute it. In this

state in which subsiding grief, or the pressure of any severe calamity now passing away, leaves the mind, the grey and silver twilight that succeeds a partial or total eclipse. It is, with many persons, the habitual state of the mind, through long periods, perhaps even the greater part of life. Not unfrequently it occurs that minds of the rarest genius and most delicate sensibilities, are subject to that extreme and habitual depression of spirits which casts a deep gloom over the brightest objects, and renders life itself a burden. This state of habitual gloom and despondency, itself usually a form of disease, the result of some physical derangement, deepens into a fixed and permanent disorder of the mind, and continues one of the most pitiable and hopeless forms of insanity. Such was the case with the melancholy, but most amiable and gentle Cowper.

We call attention this week to two ably written articles by Plato—our invisible and unknown correspondent, under the respective headings of 'Philosophic Reflections' and Farewell to Democracy. The latter comes to us in the shape of a simple apostrophe, and is well worth reading.

DR L. E. KEELEY, respectfully tenders his Professional services, and will answer all calls that may be made upon him. Office at G. A. Seymours Drug store.

**Dwight House,**  
West of Rail Road,  
**BEST HOUSE IN THE CITY,**  
H. CORNELL, Proprietor

TABLE.  
Dwight as fol-

NORTH.

5: 25, P. M.

2: 10, A. M.

SOUTH.

11: 30, A. M.

1: 10, A. M.

ODATION.

8: 40 P. M.

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, BOOTS,

E. B. Arnold,

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