

# THE STAR.

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## The Dwight Star,

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Editor Star:

This week I will take up the subject of SORROW. It is a subject I have refrained from touching in past letters, because it requires elaboration, and cannot be exhausted in the small space you can spare, for one letter. I will therefore strip it of its redundance and present it as concisely as I can in two letters.

PHILOSOPHIC REFLECTIONS.

By Plato. Paper No. X.

Prominent among distinct emotions, is the grief we feel at any great and sudden bereavement or calamity, as, for example, the loss of friends. This is a state of mind closely allied, indeed, to the melancholy of which I have spoken, but differs from it in that it springs from a more obvious and immediate cause, and is at once more definite and more intense. After a time, when the first bitterness of anguish is past, and the mind recovers itself in a measure from the violence of the shock it has received, and which, for the time, like a sudden blow, seems to stagger all its energies, when other causes begin to operate, and other scenes can demand its attention, its sorrow, at first violent and irrepressible, gradually subsides into that calmer but more permanent form which I have already described as melancholy, in my last letter.

When the loss is very great, especially if it comes suddenly to us—and what bereavement, however long anticipated and feared, does not at last overtake us suddenly—the mind is at first, in a manner, stupefied and amazed, unable to realize its loss, and looks hopelessly about it for relief. To this succeeds a state of mental anguish, more or less intense, in proportion to the liveliness of the sensibilities, and strength of the previous attachment. In many cases the sorrow is uncontrollable, and finds relief in tears, or in those more violent expressions of anguish in which the burdened heart of man in all ages has been wont to indicate its grief, as the rending of the garments, the beating of the breast, the tearing of the hair, and other like demonstrations of utter and hopeless sorrow. The mind in such a state resigns itself passively to the violence of its emotion, and is swept on by the rushing current that overflows its banks. It is Rachel mourning for her children, and refusing to be comforted. It is David going to the chamber over the gate, and exclaiming, as he goes, 'O Absalom, my son! my son!'

When the first violence of grief has subsided, and reflection succeeds to passion, the mind begins to recall the circumstances of its loss, and sets itself to comprehend the greatness and reality of the calamity that has befallen it. It dwells with interest and satisfaction on all the worth and virtues of the departed, magnifies all that was good, excuses or overlooks all that was faulty, recalls the words, the tones, the looks, and gathers up the slightest memento

of the former history, with the same sacred regard and reverence with which it treasures in the funeral urn the ashes of the dead. A sacredness and dignity invests the character, and the life, when once the angel death has set his seal upon them.

HENRY NEWELL.

Last week our enterprising friend Henry Newell was led into our Sanctum by Dr. Keeley, for a "pen portrait of the proprietor of the most elegant and beautifully finished structure in the house line in the town of Dwight." Judging from the appearance of friend Henry's garments, we should say—that notwithstanding that jolly free and easy look, of "money to spare"—house building had about used him up, physically and financially. We hope we are wrong in both premises, as it is pleasant to think, that one man is making money for the purpose of using it to public advantage. We are not alone, among the many who were deceived in Mr. Newell. He has developed a spirit of public enterprise that has surpassed, and put to shame, many who were supposed eminently more able to surpass him. The Newell family as a whole, are among our best citizens and have done more, according to their means, to build up and identify themselves with every public improvement benefiting the town of Dwight—than any other family in it. All honor is due such men from the public at large and the STAR for one, cheerfully accords it.

At Palmer's you can find the latest Music, and a good assortment of Blank Books and Stationery.

1868.  
TABLE.  
Dwight as fol

NORTH.  
5: 25, P. M.  
2: 10, A. M.  
SOUTH.  
11: 30, A. M.  
1: 10, A. M.  
EDUCATION.  
8: 40 P. M.

F. B. Arnold,  
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