

THE STAR.

VOL. 3.

DWIGHT ILL., DECEMBER 31, 1868.

NO. 4.

The Dwight Star,

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PHILOSOPHIC REFLECTIONS.

By Plato. Paper No. XIV.

THE WILL.

I understand, by the will, that power which the mind has of determining or deciding what it will do, and of putting forth volitions accordingly. The will is the power of doing this; willing, is the exercise of the power; volition, is the deed, the thing done. The will is but another name for the executive power of the mind. Whatever we do intelligently and intentionally, whether it implies an exercise of the intellect, or of the feelings, or of both, that is an act of the will. All our voluntary, in distinction from our involuntary movements of the body, and movements of the mind, are the immediate results of the activity of the Will.

We can, perhaps, conceive of a being endowed with intellect and sensibility, but without the faculty of will. Such a being, however superior he might be to the brutes in point of intelligence, would so far as regards the capacity

of action, be even their inferior, since his actions must be, as theirs, the result of mere sensational impulse, without even the unerring instinct to guide him, which the brute possesses, and which supplies the place of reason and intelligent will. To this wretched condition man virtually approximates when, by any means, the will becomes so far enfeebled, or brought under the dominion of appetite and passion, as to lose the actual control of the mental and physical power.

It must be born in mind, of course, as we proceed, that the will is nothing but the mind itself willing, or having power to will, and not something distinct from the mind, or even a part of the mind, as the handle and the blade are distinct parts of the knife. The power to think, the power to feel, the power to will, are distinct powers, but the mind is one and indivisible, exercising now one, now another, of these powers.

In order to the better understanding of the nature of this faculty, let us first analyze its operations, with a view to ascertain the several distinct stages or elements of the mental process which takes place. We will then take up their several elements, one by one, for special investigation. What, then, are the essential phenomena of an act of the will? Let us assist ourselves in the process of putting forth an act of this kind and observe precisely what is it that we do, and what are the essential data in the case. I am sitting at my table. I reach forth my hand to take a book. Here is an act of my will. My arm went not forth self-moved and spontaneously, it was

sent, was bidden to go; the soul seated within, animating this physical organism and making it subservient to her will, moved that arm. Here, then, is clearly an act of will. Let us subject it to the test of observation.

First of all then, there was evidently, in this case, something to be done—an end to be accomplished—a book to be reached. The action both of body and of mind, was directed to that end, and but for that the volition would not have been put forth. It is to be observed, moreover, that the end to be accomplished, in this case, was a possible one—the book was, or was supposed to be, within my reach. Otherwise I should not have attempted to reach it.

DWIGHT AS A HOG MARKET.

During the past three weeks there has been paid to the farmers of this vicinity over one hundred thousand Dollars for hogs. As high as ten thousand dollars has been paid in one day. The farmers about Dwight have but lately turned their attention to this branch of trade, but they have done so to some purpose in the past year. Why do not some of our enterprising men go into the packing business in this place? We know of none better. The town is crowded daily with pork in the live state, and it is really refreshing to go upon 'hog change' occasionally and witness the lively competition between the buyers.

The Ladies of the Catholic Church give a supper in Gerson's Hall on this, Thursday evening. All are invited.—We are now having pleasant weather after some very cold days.

1868.

ME TABLE.
Dwight as fo

NORTH.

4: 44, P. M.

3: 03, A. M.

SOUTH.

11: 47, A. M.

2: 25, A. M.

MODATION.

8: 17 P. M.

KEELEY, re
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House,
Rail Road,
IN THE CITY,
L, Proprietor

Kelher,
Brands of
Liquors,
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DWIGHT, ILL.

RY GOODS GROCERIES ROOTS
E. B. Arnold,
DEALER IN
TANKER STORE