

The Dwight Star.

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C. L. PALMER, EDITOR.

[For the Dwight Star.]

LEARNED LADIES.

BY LOUISE.

A lady should appear to think well of books rather than to speak well of them; she may show the engaging light that good taste and sensibility always diffuse over conversation; she may give instances of great and affecting passages, because they show the fineness of her imagination, or the goodness of her heart; but all criticism beyond this sits awardly upon her.

I would by all means have a lady know more than she displays, because it gives her unaffected powers in discourse for the same reason that a man's efforts are easy and firm when his action requires not his full strength. She should, by habit, form her mind to the noble and pathetic; and she should have an acquaintance with the fine arts, because they enrich and beautify the imagination; but she should carefully keep them out of view in the shape of learning, and let them run through the easy vein of unpremeditated thought; for this reason, she should seldom use, and not always appear to understand, the terms of art; the gentlemen will occasionally explain them to her. I knew a lady of address, who, when any term of art was mentioned, always turned to the gentleman she had a mind to compliment, and, with uncommon grace, asked him the meaning; by this means, she gave men the air of superiority they like so well, while she held them in chains. No humor can be more

delicate than this, which plays upon the tyrant, who requires an acknowledgement of superiority of sense, as well as power, from the weaker sex.

A lady sporting her learning, and introducing her verses upon all occasions, reminds one of a woman who has a fine hand and arm, a pretty foot, or a beautiful set of teeth, and who is not satisfied with letting them appear as nature and custom authorize, but is perpetually intruding her separate perfections into notice. If a woman neglects the duties of her family and the care of her children—if she is less amiable as a wife, mother, or mistress, because she has talent or acquirement—it would be far better if she were without them; and when she displays that she has more knowledge than her husband, she shows, at least, that no woman can have less sense than herself.

But I am sometimes led to think that men in general are rather narrow-minded with respect to their ideas of women. Every man with an elegant turn of mind would expect that his wife should understand the modern languages; but there are many who would be shocked if she should be able to read Homer and Virgil in the originals, or write verses. But why is there such an insurmountable barrier to our attaining these acquirements? Is it not because the men choose to dig a trench, and throw up a redoubt, to keep us within the prescribed limits? They need not, however, be under the smallest apprehensions lest we should become their rivals in the pursuits of literature; for, as Swift observes, in a letter to a newly-married lady, all the knowledge that a woman can attain, is little more than that of a schoolboy. In truth, the powers of our

minds are as inferior to those of the men as the strength of our bodies is to theirs. Yet no reason occurs to me why we should not cultivate our understandings, and acquire such a proportion of taste and learning as suits our capacities, and is consistent with our respective situations in life.

LOUIS DA SILVA.

We understand from a friend who has just returned from Bloomington, that Louis Da Silva has become a victim to the wrath of a local Editor on the PANTOGRAPH staff; and received in commemoration thereof, a public cowhiding. "Oh ye Gods! to what base purposes are we brought." The gallant Da Silva, at whose shrine we so devoutly worshiped, and of whose smooth tongued flippancy we never tired, to be publicly cowhided by a five-foot-nothing Editor, "the thought is madness."

THE TOWN.

The Princeton Charter is now the "rage" of our excitable little BURG. What is the Princeton Charter? is a question often asked us, and we being as ignorant as others, ask the same question. What IS the Princeton Charter? Mr. Pearre has a petition in circulation for names to have one granted us. But he appears to be as ignorant as ourselves. All that we can find out about it is that it makes all town Ordinances ABSOLUTE, and that there is no appeal from them, to a higher court—the decision being FINAL as it comes from the Justice. This is, we think—right, it leaves no room for the cavilings of lawyers or the clap-trap of Law; and then as it should be, the majority will rule. A temperance Board was elected last year by an overwhelming majority.