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POETRY.

[For the Dwight Star.]

DREAM AWAY, DARLING.

BY MRS. G. H. P.

Dream away, darling,
There's sorrow in waking;
Sleep, little cherub,
While my heart is breaking.
Angels are hovering
Over thy bed,
While I—O God; help me!
I wish I were dead.

Dream away, darling,
Thy father is gone—
Gone, gone from our household,
To yon bright land of song.
Forewarned, I knew it,
While the treacherous blow
Dealt out his life blood;
I felt 'twould be so.

Dream away, darling,
Thy joy is in sleeping,
Mine, mine is in praying,
And watching and weeping;
From the rise of the sun
Till he sets in the west,
Sleep, dream away; love,
I'll lull thee to rest.

Dream away, darling,
You'll wake but to see
Wild desolation
Pointing at me.
I, too, would sleep, dear,
With thee I would die,
Trusting to find him,
Our lost one, on high.

Gardner, Jan. 1869.

We have read many articles on "Hand Shaking," and we believe the following which is handed to us by a friend, to be original, and the best we have ever read on the subject.

SHAKING HANDS.

There is a significance in the different modes of shaking

hands, which indicates as far as a single act can do, the character of the person. The reader who has observed may recall the peculiarities of different persons with whom he has shaken hands, and thus note how characteristic was this simple act.

How much do we learn of a man or a woman by the shake of the hand? Who would expect to get a handsome donation—or a donation at all—from one who puts out two fingers to be shaken, and keeps the others bent, as upon an "itching palm?" The hand coldly held out to be shaken, and drawn away again as soon as it decently may be, indicates a cold, if not a selfish and heartless character; while the hand which seeks yours, and unwillingly relinquishes its warm, hearty clasp, belongs to a person with a genial disposition and a ready sympathy with his fellowmen.

In a momentary squeeze of the hand how much of the heart often oozes through the fingers! Who, that ever experienced it has ever forgotten the feeling conveyed by the eloquent pressure of the hand of a dying friend, when the tongue had ceased to speak.

A right hearty grasp of the hand indicates warmth, ardor, executiveness and strength of character; while a soft, lax touch, without the grasp, indicates the opposite characteristics. In the grasp of persons with large hearted generous minds, there is a kind of "whole soul" expression, most refreshing and acceptable to kindred spirits.

But when Miss Weakness presents you with a few cold, flabby, lifeless fingers, for

you to shake, you will naturally think of a hospital, an infirmary, or a tomb. There are foolish persons who think it pretty to have soft, wet, cold hands, when the fact is, it is only an evidence that they are ill; or that, inasmuch as the circulation of the blood is partial and feeble, they are not well; and unless they bring about a change, and induce warm hands and warm feet, by the bodily exercises, they are on the road to the grave. Cold hands, cold feet, and a hot head are indications of anything but health.

Time was, when aristocracy deigned to extend a single finger, or, at most, two, to be shaken by humble democracy. Even now we hear of instances in which "my noble lady" repeats the offence when saluted by a more humble individual. This is an indignity which no true man or woman will either offer or accept. Refinement and true gentility give the whole hand, and respond cordially, if at all. This is equivalent to saying, "You are welcome;" or, when parting, "Adieu! God be with you!"

There is a habit, among a rude class, growing out of over ardent temperament on the part of those who are more strong and vigorous than delicate and refined, who give your hand a crushing grasp, which is often most painful. In these cases there may be great kindness and "strong" affection; but it is as crude as it is hearty.

Another gives you a cold, flabby hand, with no temperament or warmth in it, and you feel chilled or repelled by the negative influence imparted, and you are expected to shake

[CONCLUDED ON FOURTH PAGE.]