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1861.

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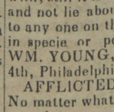

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[For the Democrat.]

TWILIGHT THOUGHTS.

BY E. J. DAVY.

There's a pure enshrin'd palace within th' deep soul,
Where the waves of aggression never may roll;
Where the sweet thrill of passion finds in relief,
A rapt, kindred music, e'en pleasant in grief.

In the still hush of even when the dewy mist falls,
And zephyrs play soft 'round lone castle walls,
When the young flowers shedding its sweet to the gales,
And the shy fawn sports through the deep woody vales.

Oh, then do I linger through love's magic hour,
And call thy fair image to the vine-clad bower;
And then those dear voices of days that are gone,
Steal back and yet whisper with the same deep tone.

I list, for their cadence comes soft to my soul,
Like the sweet touch of music, its zephyr-like roll;
And naught can allay the fond rapture then felt,
Or check the rapt sigh when its touches are felt.

I will not, nor can I, erase the sweet spell,
While mem'ry yet lingers still there will dwell
That fair little sibyl enshrined at the place,
Ne'er losing its beauty, ne'er lacking its space.

(From "Green's Gambling Unmasked.")

EVILS OF GAMING.

SOCIAL CARD PARTIES.

I have ever looked upon social card parties as the most dangerous places which a young man can visit, and the use of cards as the most dangerous pastime in which they can be engaged. The evil results which are continually growing out of such pursuits ought certainly to alarm all who lend them any countenance; yet few, very few, look upon this practice as having the evil character which we contend it has. Could I but unfold one crime in a hundred, which is connected directly or indirectly with the social party for card-playing, it would be enough to check the current of this fashionable vice, and would teach parents that while they think their children are merely passing away the time, they are cherishing a passion which shall result in their becoming what they may now despise—abandoned gamblers.

Social card-playing, in its mildest aspect, is GAMBLING, however other wise it may be viewed. To become a card-player for amusement is of itself an acknowledgment of readiness for dishonesty. It is consenting to implant a love of gambling in some heart, and every game played by the novice has a tendency towards becoming a dishonest or gambling character.

This idea may be scouted by nine-tenths of those who form these parties; indeed we expect nothing better from them, although they are men, perhaps, who possess a high sense of honor upon every other subject; but, with no ill will, we can testify, from a sad experience of twelve years and a deep conviction of the evil of it, that we should greatly err, may, commit almost an unpardonable sin, to place social card-playing or small gaming under any other head than petty gambling. The press, which is, or ought to be, the guardian of public morals, very rarely alludes to this most abominable practice;—the ministers of religion have become so accustomed to regard it as a thing generally practiced, or to be tolerated, that they seem to have lost most of that just abhorrence with which it should always be viewed, and seldom speak of it from the pulpit; and the consequence is, that it is left to work its evil effect, without an effort to reform the old, or restrain the young. Yet we can see and feel the difficulty in the latter case; for we see in some of our churches, some of these very social gamesters, or card-players on the one hand, and on the other good men, who yet can see only what is apprehended by their eyes, and consequently they discover no evil where it is not at once apparent.—These persons see no necessity of dragging to the light of day those things which are done in secret, or condemning that which is not expressly named in Scripture. We should be glad could we bring these two classes to see the usefulness of such preaching, as laid open by the sinfulness of such practices.

To show the evil effect of such practices, I will recall the memory of a case of suicide which took place in one of our principal hotels, in Cincinnati. I was intimately acquainted with the unhappy subject of it

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