

brightest pages to the Owl., can look back to the day when their articles were rejected or accepted only after being re-written again and again. Do not count on getting the *grâce d'état* when your name will figure on the list of editors : assure success now by persistent effort. Do something, and do it well, for the two numbers of Vol. VII. which have yet to appear.

#### DISCRETION IN INTERPRETATION.

Sometimes it seems a pity that we are not gifted with that absolute penetration which is characteristic solely of the Omniscient Deity. It may perhaps be admitted that a certain amount of trouble and annoyance might be eliminated by such a wonderful insight into the affairs of this world and into the doings and thoughts of our neighbor ; but, fortunately or unfortunately, man has not been thus endowed. He can not see everything ; he does not know everything. His life leads him on a course that is often uncertain and frequently disturbed with the eddies of a Charybdis and of a Scylla. He should therefore advance with caution, and carefully avoid the shoals which can not beget anything but wreck. One of the greatest dangers which beset him arises from his imperfect knowledge and from his liability, his propensity to misjudge. This disadvantage may be offset by prudence.

Too much discretion can not be used in the interpretation of facts, of doings, of sayings, of writings. There are some individuals who imagine that every applause that is given is meant for them. Such people wallow in their own conceit. They are guilty of gross misrepresentation ; they distort facts ; they flatter themselves that they are universally admired, whereas, in reality, they are often the laughing-stock of the masses who delight in ridiculing

them. Yet, as if to constitute a direct antithesis, there are others who persuade themselves that every ill-spoken word, that every unfavorable action, that every uncertain sign, that every adverse criticism has been pointedly aimed at them. Such people create for themselves an endless amount of misery. If a criticism is not openly declared to be meant for you, pursue the sensible course of letting it pass by. If it should contain anything which really seems to strike home, do not immediately bluster up and fly into a rage and passion. That is not wise. The better policy were to be calm and controlled. There are many other people in the world besides yourself. If the article written, or the criticism spoken, be not formulated by disinterestedness, if, indeed, it be aimed at some particular individual, are there not many others to whom it might apply ?

Be reasonable ! That is the resolve of a wise man. If something has struck you as reaching at yourself, then examine carefully, cautiously, discreetly, to see if there do not exist within you some defect, some fault, the eradication of which will tend to your perfection. In most cases you will find that you will not be loser by the bargain, but you will find that you have been offered an opportunity of becoming a more perfect man. For, if an article, a criticism, tend to offend you, it is more than probable that it has touched a tender spot ; otherwise, it would not have caused you pain. It is, indeed, true that nothing hurts so much as Truth. And really—what is the use of becoming enraged ! While you are with yourself, you can afford to investigate deeply in order to find out what you really are. In fact your only consideration should be to become a better man, a perfect gentleman. Rage is always out of place and never appears to the advantage of him whom it