

lightful conversation. Many of us can recollect seeing the faces of our friends radiant with kindly excitement and delight, when some kind person in the semicircle has, by a single glance at some one gone by, and qualified by a comment of his own, sent us all to our principles and opinions. There will be differences of opinion, no doubt ; and would we have those differences of opinion suppressed, and a tame acquiescence forced upon every proposition, for fear of offending against a false politeness ? By no means. That might do very well in a hollow and heartless state of society, but not where candour and love, in their own beautiful simplicity, are allowed to reign. No ; those who are well-informed and pious will be glad to state their views, and modestly, and with tender respect to others, will endeavour to support them. They will draw out the fulness of their own hearts and the fulness of the hearts of others, and the coldness of mere ceremony will have no place ; and if there be any present who have no inclination for this mode of spending time, and who rather throw an obstacle in the way thereof, they ought to be humbled, to think how far they have yet, to rise in the scale of mental and Christian improvement, before they can be truly interesting companions to others, or truly happy in society, and in themselves. Let your arrangements then, as regards invitations, be well made ; and seldom will there be reason to regret that the allotted time has passed, either in unmeaning frivolity, or cold reserve.

If music be introduced, it would be well to confine the performance to the most select compositions which you are familiar with ; and then it will not take up all the evening, and a distaste will be created against everything that is inferior : for there are many young people who love doggerel music at the piano as little as they love doggerel poetry in their albums. Handel, Haydn, Mozart, and other great masters, are as unapproachable in this department of genius as Milton was in his ; and the more their works occupy our hours of musical recreation, we humbly think, the better. In the former, especially, there is an unearthliness and pure sublimity, which one can hardly describe. Many of our young friends are apt to argue at great length the questions, whether the singing with a musical accompaniment, or what are popularly termed songs, be sinful. Many sweeping assertions have been made in their hearing, both on one side and the other, and too little discrimination has been directed to the subject. Mr. Wesley, who was a man of fine taste, both as regards music and literature, has named as one of the disqualifications for being and continuing a member of his societies, "the reading such books, and singing such songs, as do not tend to the glory of God ;" which is, in fact, nothing more than a reiteration of the apostolic precept, before quoted, and the only direct and authoritative rule which we have on the subject. The rule, though general, is beautiful and concise, and amply sufficient for our direction. The music cultivated in the home circle may be divided into four classes. 1. That which is merely instrumen-