

IDLE DAUGHTERS.

IT is a most painful spectacle in females, where the mother is the drudge, to see the daughters elegantly dressed reclining at their ease, with their drawing, their music, their fancy work, and their reading—beguiling themselves of the lapse of hours, days, and weeks, and never dreaming of their responsibility; but as necessary consequence of a neglect of duty, growing weary their useless lives, lay hold of every newly invented stimulant to rouse their drooping energies, and blaming their fate, when they dare not blame their God, for having placed them where they are. These individuals often tell you, with an air of affected compassion, (for who can believe it real?) that dear mama is working herself to death; yet no sooner do you propose that they should assist her, than they declare she is quite in her element—in short, that she never would be happy if she had half so much to do.

TRUE BRAVERY.—If thou desire to be truly valiant, fear to do an injury. He that fears not to do evil, is always afraid to suffer evil; he that never fears is desperate; he that always fears is a coward. He is the truly valiant man that dares nothing but what he may, and fears nothing but what he ought.

St. Augustine, in the spirit of a generous philosophy, observes, not an act, but a habit, justifies a name: though Peter blasphemed, yet he was not a blasphemer.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

CRITICISM.

FOR some hundreds of years the learned world has had its critics and reviewers. In some instances learning and knowledge have been served by them, but not in every case. True criticism is always lawful, and cannot be otherwise than profitable, and will be courted by the intelligent author. Many persons, however, set up as judges in criticism, who possess but few of the qualifications requisite for so important a work.

They differ in their judgement and decisions, and come at conclusions by opposite rules; and yet every one thinks his own decisions correct. Some are immethodical and unintelligible; some dull and insipid; others, sensorial and piquant; and, many are puzzled and lost amid the intricacies of their own errors and blunders; but *all are right* in their own superior judgement.—Famous reviewers these! Endeavoring to signalize, they disgrace themselves; and give conclusive evidence, by the terms and phrases they use, that they are ignorant of the first principles of science and literature.

Criticism may be defined to be the art of judging with correctness, respecting a literary performance. Its province does not consist in minifying nor magnifying verbal and grammatical, and typographical mistakes, but aims at the more exalted purpose of pointing out defects in the style and sentiment, where they really exist; and lauding the sentiment and the arrangement when founded in truth and propriety. Opin-