

the display of fortitude under every sort of privation and suffering that it was in the days of Anne, and even in much later times.

On the most important point, perhaps, of all, the relations between the sexes and female character, there was little that was new to be said. The upper-class woman of that period is perfectly known to us all through the *Spectator* and other social literature. She was never a Saint Theresa nor a Mrs. Somerville; often she was a butterfly, sometimes she was naughty, and gambled at basset. Her hours were not later, the heels of her shoes were not higher, nor was her dress, even taking into account her patches, much more unnatural than those of her descendants. Dissipation for dissipation, perhaps hers and that of her partner in those days rather had the advantage over that of London society in these days, inasmuch as it was at all events real enjoyment. There was

no standing for hours in a hot and crowded room to talk to people to whom you did not want to talk, about things in which you felt no interest. Sir George Lewis might have said that the amusements were highly reprehensible; he could hardly have said that life would be pleasant enough if it were not for its amusements. Matrimony was far from spotless. There were Fleet marriages performed by tipsy parsons, forced marriages, runaway marriages, matrimonial wrongs, cruelties, and infidelities. But in England, on the whole, man and wife were true to each other—more so, certainly, in the upper classes than they were in France; and if that generation left plenty of work for marriage-law reformers, it also handed on the strength of conjugal affection and of domestic sentiment which makes the experiments of reformers on the constitution of the family safer than they would otherwise be.

A YEAR IN ENGLAND: WHAT I SAW, WHAT I HEARD, AND WHAT I THOUGHT.

BY A CANADIAN.

(Concluded, from Vol. IV., page 378.)

DRESS, HABITS, MANNERS.

DEAR SAMMY,—

I MUST at last satisfy your curious mind in regard to certain matters of inquiry. You insist upon being informed as to the dress of the Londoners. Well, my dear Sammy, as I am far enough away from the little island not to be heard I may whisper to you two convictions I have in regard to English ladies which are not flattering to them. As compared with their sisters on this side the water English ladies are comparatively homely; and in dress they show a decided lack of

taste. Sometimes the taste may be declared positively bad, a violation of plain æsthetic laws, but very often there is not so much this as a lack of that æsthetic fancy which is so conspicuous in American ladies, though often in their case carried to an extreme. An Englishman told me that when he first landed in New York he found it difficult on the street to discriminate between women that were virtuous and those that were the reverse. But certainly in any English assembly, in London at least, one never gets the impression that women gather at such places to