

INTRODUCTION.

THE dance of society, as at present practiced, is essentially different from the theatre, and it is proper that it should be so. Most fathers and mothers, including clergymen, send their daughters to dancing schools. Brothers dance with sisters, fathers with daughters, mothers with sons, and all permit friends to dance with those they love best. Those who really think it improper certainly ought not to dance. I would not advise those who receive no benefit or innocent enjoyment from dancing to indulge in it. I do not intend to be so enthusiastic in its laudation as to say, or even believe that dancing is the paramount virtue of life, but it is certainly a commendable part. Exercise may be considered as one of the necessities of life, and there is no exercise at once so innocent, pleasurable, healthful, universally popular, and appropriately adapted to the joyous intermingling of ladies, gentlemen and children, as dancing. Not only at large balls and parties do the fashionable world dance, but even if, upon making an evening call, a few friends should accidentally meet, a dance is at once proposed as a relief to the gossip of the day.

"How long will it take to learn to dance?" is a question often asked. That depends on the aptitude, the patience, the perseverance and attention of the pupil, as