

thus standing silently—the women with their eyes looking to the floor—one of the elders in the midst of them makes a few remarks, after which a hymn is sung to a very lively tune, the whole of the congregation keeping time with their feet.

After the hymn the worshippers commence a dance, an illustration of one of the movements or steps of which we give. The dance consists of a series of evolutions of different forms, presenting in each all the precision of well-trained pupils, moving as if with only one step. The illustration will give an idea of a backward and forward dance or march, with



SHAKERS' RELIGIOUS DANCE.

them keeping time to the hymns they sing, at the same time, following the example, as they say, of David, when he danced before the Lord with all his might. After this, and when all the seats are replaced, and the congregation seated as before, one of the elders delivers a discourse, when the seats are removed again to give place to another dance of a different style, and to another hymn. This time the dance is of a more lively character, with the action of the arms, thrown up and down, and clapping of hands in regular order. In this way are several hymns sung and danced to, and addresses delivered; and however much parties, on reading the accounts of such, may be disposed to smile, no one can witness the devotional exercises of these people, such as they are, without being impressed with feelings of the deepest respect and solemnity; and however much they may differ from the Shakers in opinion, they will be ready to give them full credit for thorough conscientiousness, and faith in what they believe to be right.

Occasionally the "spirit manifests itself" by one or more of the congregation getting up and dancing or whirling round and round with extraordinary rapidity, and the parties apparently being perfectly unconscious of every thing passing around them. In this way will they continue to whirl and dance for nearly an hour without intermission.

As may be well known, all property belonging to the Society is held in common by the members. All who join it do so voluntarily, after perusing the rules and regulations of the Society, which are submitted to all before they join. The Society is divided into three divisions, or classes, viz.: the senior, junior, and novice class. The senior class