

rash enough to make this claim for the popular dance. The heated halls, the late suppers, the feverish excitement, the interruption of sleep, the long-continued exertion involved in jumping and whirling for hours in succession, followed by exposure to all kinds of weather, with the blood hot and clothing often insufficient for protection—these are the conditions that naturally invite disease, and have actually dug for thousands a premature grave.

4. It is dangerous to the morals. Custom makes it allowable for young women to dress for such occasions in a way that would hardly be considered modest at any other time. The sexes are brought into such familiar and fascinating relations with each other, that lascivious feelings are naturally generated, and licentious practices are too often the final and fatal result. On this point we shall give the testimonies of some others, whose deliberate conclusions confirm our strongest words and our worst fears in the matter.

Mr. J. H. Brookes has written an excellent little work on the subject, in which the author says: Fashion, which is often a fool, and still oftener a fiend, even while wearing a smiling face, has succeeded in enthroning the waltz, and her still more lascivious sisters, as the recognised queens of our best society, and under their sway it is fast getting to be our worst society. At the beck of these base tyrants, there are young ladies, I am sorry to say, who will permit liberties to be taken with them in public which, if attempted in private, they would resent as the most shocking insult. There are fathers and mothers who permit their daughters to attend the "club" or the "hop;" and after gliding for hours through the voluptuous movement of the waltz, they are accompanied home, it may be, by an accomplished libertine, half drunk with champagne.

The bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, in the United States, published a Pastoral Letter in 1866, wherein they bear this faithful testimony:

We consider it to be our duty to warn our people against those amusements which may easily become to them an occasion of sin, and especially against the fashionable dances, which, as at present carried on, are revolting to every feeling of delicacy and propriety, and fraught with the greatest danger to morals.

Bishop Coxe, of the Episcopal Church, uses the following forcible language:

The enormities of theatrical exhibitions, and the lasciviousness of dances, too commonly tolerated in our times, are so disgraceful to the age and so irreconcilable with the gospel of Christ, that I feel it my duty to the souls of my flock to warn those who run with the world "to the same excess of riot" in these things, that they presume not to come to the holy table.