

WALTZING.

A writer in the *New World*, of the 25th of February, argues that the waltz should be entirely discarded both in public and private assemblies; and for its effectual suppression, advises the interference of the legislature. We have often heard and read objections against waltzing. For the writers we cannot speak, not knowing their mental constitutions. But we never yet heard an objection against it from any person, male or female, in whose purity of mind we had much confidence; and without much danger of injustice, we may tell the majority, if not all of the objectors, that the fault of which they complain is founded less in the dance, than in their own want of delicacy in associating it with impure thoughts.—To the pure, all things are pure. To the impure, many things perfectly harmless, and without any natural connection with improper thoughts, invariably suggest indecent images and associations. Where is the fault? In the things, or in the perverted imaginations of those of the objectors?

The waltz is one of the oldest dances in Europe. We know not its origin, but can trace it as high at least as the invasion of England by the Saxons, about the middle of the fifth century. It seems to have been long known wherever Scandinavian, Saxon or Belgic blood flowed. In other words, it seems to have been known all over northern Europe.—Though carried into England by the Saxons, it does not seem to have remained as a national dance. Perhaps the Celtic and Celtic-Roman population rejected it through hatred of their Saxon invaders. It does not seem to have been common among the Normans; for though they were originally Scandinavians, yet in western France, whence they entered England, they had become mixed with the Gallic and Gallo-Roman population, and might have lost this dance through such mixture.—Their ignorance of it when they invaded England, was an additional cause for its disuse in that island; for as it was rejected by the Celtic and Roman population, it would be confined to the Saxons; and as the Saxons were afterwards conquered by the Normans, who did not use this dance, it would disappear in time, even among the Saxon population of England. It does not seem to have prevailed in France, until within the last century; for its French name, *Waltz*, a corruption of the German word, plainly denotes its recent introduction among the French people. Be-

sides, though common in the cities, it has not become so general in the interior; another proof of its modern introduction. We can easily account for this. The Scandinavian population never obtained a residence in any part of France, excepting Normandy. Its present stock are a mixture of the Gauls or Celts, the Romans, and the Western Germans; and this will account for their ignorance, 'till lately, of a dance peculiar to the Scandinavians, or Danes, Swedes, Norwegians, Northern Germans or Saxons, and Belgians or Flemings and Hollanders. As the waltz has been introduced among us chiefly by the French, it is regarded by some as a dance of French origin. But this is entirely erroneous, it being exclusively the growth of Scandinavia and Northern Germany.

Of all Europeans, the Scandinavians, including the Danes, Swedes, Norwegians and Northern and North-western Germans, are and ever have been the most reserved and decorous in manners, and the most elevated in all their views of the relations between the sexes. So early as the commencement of the second century, they were distinguished for their purity of manners, conjugal fidelity, and respect for women: for Tacitus commends them far above his own countrymen for these virtues. Any person acquainted with modern history, knows that the institution of *Chivalry* whose governing principle was respect for women, originated among the Scandinavian tribes, those identical Goths and Vandals who overthrew the Roman empire, and established upon its ruin most of the States of modern Europe. And all our accounts of the modern Danes, Swedes, Norwegians and Northern German, the posterity of these very Scandinavians, bear testimony to their reserve and purity of manners. Whoever will read Tacitus and study the modern German character, will perceive how thoroughly the manners of the ancient Germans, so forcibly described and justly commended by the illustrious Romans, have descended to their posterity. And among these people, distinguished in ancient and modern times for their elevated ideas of female character, and as the founders of the very institutions designed for woman's protection and improvement, originated the much abused, much calumniated *Waltz*! To suppose that any amusement inconsistent with feminine delicacy or dignity, could originate among such a people, is preposterous. The association of indelicacy with the *Waltz* is not a Scandinavian, not a German idea. That association is