

DIFFICULT RHYMES.

Some time ago an article under the above heading appeared in a deservedly popular journal, in which it was stated that there were a number of words for which no true rhyme can yet be found, viz : chimney, silver, widow, spirit, liquid, window, etc. With regard to difficult rhyming, permit me to say a few words for the encouragement of youthful rhymers who may chance to run aground on any of the obstinate words mentioned. Seeing that the spelling of the English language is no guide to its pronunciation (which fact Lord Beaconsfield laid to the charge of the "father of lies,") rhyming is no doubt more difficult than it would be were the opposite the case. But even with all its imperfections, by dint of perseverance and ingenuity excellent rhymes have been and can be wrought out of our mother tongue. Some of the leading poets were only *passable* rhymers, and some have ignored both rhyme and rhythm; do not throw your verses overboard for lack of a true rhyme, as a passable one can be formed for any word, not even excepting silver, widow, spirit, liquid, window, etc.

The ultimate syllables of some words, though spelt differently, are so nearly alike in sound that only a very delicate ear can distinguish between them. Take for instance *fer* and *var* in pilfer and silver. What objection could there be to rhyming them thus—

Never pilfer gold or silver ;
If you have a mind or will for
Gold or silver, you an till for,
Toil for these, but never pilfer.

And what harm in a rhyme after this fashion ?

I once sought a widow,
I did, yea, I did, oh
I sigh when I yet think it o'er !
That charming young widow
The while her eyes chid, oh
She "no'd" me, and showed me the door !