

THE NEW DANCES.

The history of dancing is very interesting, showing as it does, that the ancients placed a high value upon it as a form of exercise, and there are no ceremonies or religious rites of any antiquity in which there was not dancing. Egypt ascribes to herself the origin of the art, as being invented by the Egyptian Mercury, who observed that the music used in the sacrifices gave to the body many different motions. He took thence the art by directing the motion of the feet to the artificial dance. That it was he who first invented it, is presumed from his being always depicted with wings on his shoulders and heels. He taught the people to use it in religion, and this is further illustrated from the practice of the Israelites, in their dancing before the golden calf.

The Bible, which contains numerous references to dancing, describes how Miriam placed herself at the head of the women of Israel and led the maidens in their dance.

Plato said: Other animals want the sense of order and disorder, but for having the gods for our companions we are given to numerous harmonious, sweet and delightful senses, and they have taught us musical measures and the several kinds of dancing."

Dancing was in favor among the gods, and Apollo bears the title of "the dancer" in the poems of Pindar, while in one of the works of Homer he is represented as playing upon the harp and dancing at the same time.

When Handel was asked to point out the peculiar taste of the different nations in Europe, he ascribed the minuet to the French, the saraband to the Spanish, the arietta to the Italian and the hornpipe to the English.

The jig, the strathspey and the reel may all be said to be national dances. The Highland fling is Scottish as surely as the sailor's hornpipe is English. America—wise in her generations—adapts a little from every dance, but has none that may be called national.

A representative called upon Mr. Frank Kibbe at his academy and found that gentleman giving a lesson to some ladies.

"I am instructing them in the 'Amsterdam,' a new dance by Dods-worth, and if you will watch the movements you will get some idea of the dance." The graceful dance which followed resembled the "oxford" minuet, but was more spirited in its evolutions.

"What are some of the new dances that will be most popular this season?"

"That is hard to say," Mr. Kibbe answered. "I can give you the names, but as to whether they will be very popular rests with the people. Very often the dance, which to the master's eye, seems a certain success, creates no impression upon the public mind. Here are some new dances which are being taught at my school: First is the 'Amsterdam,' sanctioned by the prestige of the 400 in its original city, New York. Next, the 'Varsity,' composed by Prof. Davis of Toronto, Canada; the 'Varsouvienna Waltz;' 'Gavotte der Kaiserin;' 'National Quadrille;' the 'Mazreda' and the waltz 'Oxford,' by Ross Granger of Ann Arbor. The last named waltz has already captured the fancy of dancers and become a great success."

"What of the popular dances of a few years ago, such as the 'Bon Ton,' 'Oxford Minuet' and the 'Military Schottische?'"

"They are quite dead now, for that class of dances rise and fall in popular favor like the songs of a day."

"How about the two step? Will it be danced this season?"

"Yes, but it will only last a year or two, when it will be dropped again. The two-step is nothing more than the old-fashioned galop; there is only a slight change in the music."

"Where do the new dances originate?"

"They are usually studies of young dancing masters. The East is very conservative, and cares little for anything beyond the waltz and polka. These dances, which last a season or two, seldom pass far beyond the limit of the school, where they serve their purpose as an excellent discipline."—*Kansas City Ball Room.*



1—"Gee whiz! but this valise is getting heavy."

SOME OF LABOUCHERE'S APHORISMS.

- Animosity is the mother of invention.
- Anything for a quiet lie.
- All men are liars—especially women.
- Little lies have long lives.
- Lie and let live.
- First detest and then detract.
- Society is paved with bad reputations.
- Every man is best known to his neighbors—especially to the one who knows him least.
- Look not a good lie in the mouth.
- Three women and a liar make a slander.
- No lies, no gossip.
- Since the fall we all fall, but some fall on their feet.
- Slanderers are always above suspicion.
- Never listen to two sides of a story—the second story spoils the first.



2-I guess this little bracer will strengthen me up again.



3-Gracious! I'm feeling better already—



4-and the valise as light as a feather. Nothing like it.