

OLD ENGLAND

AND

NEW ENGLAND,

IN A SERIES OF VIEWS TAKEN ON THE SPOT.

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“THE STAGE BEFORE AND BEHIND THE CURTAIN.”

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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J. S. R.

the shine out of a person," but never knew the origin of the saying before.

Now for another vagary which may perhaps be extremely edifying, as well as acceptable, to the fair portion of the creation. The spirits give out that the present order of courtship and marriage is entirely to be turned topsy-turvy; the petticoats are to make choice of any partner they think proper, and everything in the shape of restraint is to be abolished. Read No. 8 of a work called "The Spirit Messenger," and you will stumble over these expressions:

"The female—the negative—as society is now based, is compelled to attract the positive, in order that an union may be formed; must, without an advance, win the object that is to companion her through life—an isolated rudder lying in wait for a pilot! Can woman, thus shackled by society's fetters, be reasonably expected to form a correct alliance?—get a good pilot? So long as woman is compelled to remain the thing of circumstances, the wooed instead of the wooing, the sought for instead of the seeking party, just so long there must be of necessity incorrect unions, or she be for ever stigmatized an old maid! Is it not a sin—to say nothing of shame—that existing restraints

compel women to remain at home?—then pitch fashion to the dogs.”

Now, ladies, let us examine into the doctrines laid down, and see to what extent you are prepared to admit the importance of the prerogatives which you are invited to claim. “Spiritual courtship” is, undoubtedly, pleasant enough, as all courtship is, but “spiritual wifeism” seems to be of a different character, as the following narration, listened to on the spot, will testify :

“William Smith, brother of the Mormon prophet, Joe, is before the Circuit Court of Illinois, sitting in Lee County, on a charge of having more wives than the law allows. One of the female members of the church has made affidavit that she had been induced to believe that it was necessary for her salvation that she should become his spiritual wife; the result of which was the same that usually accompanies cases where no spiritualism is claimed. Smith has himself now pending in the same court, an application for a divorce, on the ground that his wife, while at Nauvoo, was initiated into the mysteries of, and as he says, ‘took seven degrees’ in, spiritual wifery. So that it seems, according to the ideas of the doctrines of that parti-

cular branch of the church militant, what is sauce for the goose is not 'sauce for the gander.' ”

We could go on increasing these memoranda without end, and point out the extent to which spiritual rapping, or tapping, is carried. We could carry you into the very land of spiritualism, and show the scenes, detailed to us by their own revelations in good mundane print, wherein

“ Black spirits and white,
Blue spirits and grey,
Mingle, mingle, mingle—
You that mingle may !”

We have, especially according to the pages of “Supernal Theology,” a full view of the manner in which the spirits of the departed world pass their time, their habits, their peculiarities, their partialities, and so forth. In some spheres they have occasionally a rubber of whist, in others a ball; in the fifth sphere they play a round game, and in the sixth they have a well-organized concert. The reader will not be astonished to find that, like all gamblers, they occasionally want money; for we are told, notwithstanding they had a bank open at Chicago, as we have already demonstrated, that (see page 122), “the spirits stood in need of a