

more. We would recommend our young friends to practise this trick well before they attempt to shew it, as it is too good a one to hazard its discovery by impatience, which is too frequently the case.

“ HOLD IT FAST.”

You commence by asking the most athletic person in company whether he is nervous ; he will most probably answer in the negative ; you then ask whether he thinks he can hold a card tightly. If he answer, No, ask the question of some one else, till you obtain an answer in the affirmative. You then desire the party to stand in the middle of the room, and holding up the pack of cards, you show him the bottom card, and request him to proclaim what card it is ; he will say it is the knave of hearts ; you then tell him to hold the card tightly at the bottom, and look to the ceiling. While he is looking up, you ask him if he recollects his card ; if he say, Yes, desire him to draw it away, and ask him what it is ; he will, of course, answer, the knave of hearts : tell him he has made a mistake, for if he look at his card, he will find it to be the knave of spades, which will be the case. You then give him the remainder of the pack, telling him that if he looks over it, he will find the knave of hearts in quite a different situation.

This feat, though it excites much admiration, is very simple. You procure an extra knave of hearts, and cut it in half, keeping the upper part, and throwing away the lower. When commencing your feat, get the knave of spades to the bottom of the pack, and lay over the upper part of it, unperceived, your half knave of hearts ; and, under pretence of holding the pack very tight, throw your thumb across the middle of the knave, so that the joining may not be perceived, for the legs of those two knaves are so much alike that there is no danger of detection. You, of course,

give him the legs of the knave of spades to hold, and when he has drawn the card away, hold your hand so that the faces of the cards will be turned towards the floor, and take an opportunity of removing the half knave: you may vary the feat by having a half-knave of spades.

