

A FAMILY STRICTURE.

A Parody of 'A Family Picture,' by M. F. Tupper,
Esq. of Albury, Surrey.

(See "The Literary Gazette" of November 14th 1846.)

Ridiculous enough are the Phancies of many men, who are thereby too often guided. Some, I know, are so besotted with the desire of Off-spring, as they have ran any bazards; run hand over head, and quite undone themselves. The greatest madness imaginable, if we rightly consider all things.—*Conjugal Duty*, &c. 1736.

MY squalling ones, my stubborn ones, my vicious imps of earth,
How sadly have I suffer'd through each bother since your birth!
How heartily for nurses, and how earnestly for bears,
I yearn, to take you far away, my foul and frightful heirs!

Oh, children! that so break my peace—ye spungers of my gold,
Ma's greatest care when young, and still Pa's latest care when
old,—

I must do EV'RY thing for you—must chide, and "hide," and
guide;

Both "grub" and clothes must place, God knows, still ever at
your side.

I must do EV'RY thing for you—your everlasting slave;
Must lodge and dodge, and watch and botch, and drive and strive
to save :

Oh! run to me still will you all, and I your faults must rue,—
Each "Hopeful," when in "scrapes," still I've to fight it out for
you.

Yea, crimes or follies, debts or frets, or base connection's fall,
Doubt not, but I'm the luckless one who has to smart for all:
I must still render, blind and kind, lest some be ruin'd slap,—
I must do all for great and small, by pocket, prayer, or pap!

My crowd of "cubs," affrighted, I review you one by one—
(A pretty pack of plagues seem those through whom I'm so un-
done!)

And tell the woes to her I chose—a too familiar sound—
Where'er a once snug hearth and berth like our's is stock'd
around.

Oh, fearful charge and pain to me!—oh, how my temper's tried!
Alack! I soon, through lack of joy, shall be myself beside.
When I am dead, my greedy ones they'll read my Will with glee;
When they are dead, THEIR needy ones—about as good will be!

C. C.