

band's property, not hers ; but could she only succeed in placing it in circumstances in which it might be free either to kill itself or not, and were it, in these circumstances, to destroy itself, she was sure all the better divines would acquit her of aught approaching to moral guilt in the transaction ; and the relieved household would be free from both the evil spirit and the little pig. The mill-pond was situated immediately beside her dwelling ; its steep sides, which were walled with stone, were unscalable by at least little pigs ; and among the aged ashes which sprung up immediately at its edge, there was one that shot out a huge bough, like a bent arm, directly over it, far beyond the stonework, so that the boys of the neighborhood used to take their seat on it, and fish for little trout that sometimes found their way into the pond. On the projecting branch one day, when her husband's back was turned, and there was no one to see or interfere, she placed the pig. It stood for awhile : there was no doubt, therefore, it *could* stand ; but, unwilling to stand any longer, it sprawled,—slipped,—fell,—dropped into the water, in short,—and ultimately, as it could not make its way up the bank, was drowned. And thus ended the pig. It would seem, however, as if the evil spirit had got into her husband instead,—so extreme was his indignation at the transaction. He would accept of neither apology nor explanation ; and unable, of course, to live any longer under the same roof with a man so unreasonable, she took the opportunity, when he was quitting that part of the country for employment at a distance, to remain behind in her old cottage,—the same in which she at that time resided. Such was the maniac's account of her quarrel with her husband ; and, when listening to men chopping little familiar logic on one of the profoundest mysteries of Revelation,—a mystery which, once received as an article of faith, serves to unlock many a difficulty, but which is itself wholly irreducible by the human intellect,—I have been sometimes involuntarily led to think of her ingenious but not very sound argumentation on the fall of the pig. It is dangerous to attempt explaining, in the theological province, what in reality cannot be