

has now triumphed over it in their estimation, until at last wholesome pleasures cease to please, just as a brandy drinker ceases to be satisfied with cold water or a cup of coffee. The youths, who once it may be, were the most regular church-goers have now become intimate with the swearer, the Sabbath breaker, the infidel, and the liar, all through the influence of the theatre.

It is well known that the playhouse has attractions which the church cannot sanction, and we do not wonder that the mass of the people should choose theatre going to church going, when we know that "the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness."

The whole fact of the matter is, the theatre and the church are directly opposed to one another in character. The object of the church is to become a means or an instrument in turning souls from the evil that is in the world to serve the living God. Upon the other hand I do not believe that the theatre has ever helped many souls toward heaven; I am sure it has sent scores to perdition.

I do not in write this way from a mere conjectural standpoint, for then all that I have said could possibly be taken for nought, but from one of matter of fact, and therefore in conclusion I appeal to the judgment of all Christians and sensible people in general, if the influence of the theatre on the church is not only weakening to it, but also ruinous to its members.

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