

ought to engage his chief and most earnest consideration and efforts. If professing christianity, he will also acknowledge that the scriptures of the book we call the Bible, especially the New Testament portion of it, form the only sure and perfect standard for the belief and conduct of all who profess that only valid and pure religion. Now let the caviller as to this standard, and opponent of what he calls pharisaic or puritanical strictness, look through the sacred books, to discover an authority or permission for any of the carnal and worldly diversions and practices, previously mentioned in this discourse, or any others of a merely sensual description. He will look in vain. He will not find in those sacred and binding oracles, even the words, *amusements*, *diversions*, or *recreations*. The only passages looking the least in that direction, are these: "Is any merry, let him sing psalms, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord." But these exercises will not at all suit these "sowers of the flesh." They will be willing to take the music *singly*, but it may well be presumed, will readily dispense with the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Some other kind of songs, sonnets, duets, or solos, will please them better. One of England's pious and most gifted Bards, has said of the divinely wise and liberal Paul: "commend me to a quip, or merry turn, in all he ever wrote, and I consent you take it for your text, and preach from thence til sides and benches fail."

But although the sower to the flesh will not find a single passage of scripture to sanction his sensual diversions and amusements, he will find very many informing him, that like all the rest of mankind, he is by nature corrupt and depraved, held under sin, and in consequence exposed to Divine wrath and punishment, from a just and holy God. He will see in those inspired records, that he is, while in that natural state, called a "child of wrath;" and that in order to escape from that dreadful condition, and obtain mercy from his offended God, and acceptance to His favor, he must earnestly and anxiously seek for Divine grace, to enable him truly to repent; must turn from his evil ways, be renewed in heart and mind through divine operations; believe with his heart in the remedy graciously provided for his pardon and resto-