

fills my Father's heart with such bitter sorrow and agonizes it with such fearful forebodings.

I might rest the whole subject of Theatrical amusements here and dispose of it as a wrong and an evil because of its antagonism to the holy and happy working of the Family economy. It may be as well, however that something more be advanced to show that in their very nature, they trench on morality. I do not imagine there is anything wrong in confessing to some slight acquaintance in Dramatic Literature; not indeed with the literature of the stage during the last twenty years, except as it has been learned from our Magazines and reviews. But what after all is the character of this literature within this period? Why so degenerate has the theatrical taste become that driven to their wit's end the most unnatural and grotesque of the Arabian Nights Entertainments have been dramatized, and the foul and fascinating creations of Bulwer's blackguardism have been dramatized, and the wild senseless licentiousness of Byron's Don Juan has been dramatised, by the caterers of the stage, and when these palled the diseased appetite by their very grossness and were consigned to oblivion, why they have dared, as was never done before, even when sanctioned and encouraged by the authority of the Roman Catholic Church; (for she among her other abominations is a patroness of the Theatre, nay, what is her Mass but a mumbled show! Her Altar a stage! Her priests—priests—they are no priests! Her priests actors some of them very clumsy, triggred out in gaudy trumpery, and her Mass but a scenic burlesque of the sufferings and death of the DIVINE SAVIOUR;) yes they have dared as was never done before since the dark ages to invade the domain of the Bible and as at this moment in Paris and probably in London, to dramatize the scenes of Paradise and the awful mysteries of Gethsemane and the Cross.

But say the Philosophic patrons of the Theatre the legitimate Drama is all right, and such representations are but a prostitution of the stage. The legitimate drama is all right! And no harm can come of the Theatre when it contents itself with the legitimate drama! The legitimate drama!—that is the theme, and it is the favourite phrase, so favourite that I can scarce get rid of it. Well I deny that the "legitimate drama"