

certainly should not set the example. If but one member of a church be found in the ball-room, who will not know it? Will not every eye be fixed on that individual? Will not some be ready to say in heart, "Did I not see him *at the Lord's Table*?" Will it not be reported the next day? And will not the echo fly among the circles of the lovers of pleasure? Will not the thoughtless urge this example, as a plea for the indulgence which conscience forbids? And will not many be emboldened, not only near by, but far off, to do what no sinner should venture to do, as it must be at the peril of his soul? And will not those gay companions of yours despise you for your vain indulgence?

Professing Christian, how can you have any delight in this vain amusement, or in any other pastime in which they delight who are strangers to holy and refined enjoyments? When all the sweets of paradise are before us, need we covet the forbidden tree? Can you recommend Christ and Him crucified to your jovial companions? Can you converse seriously on the salvation of the soul, while on the way with them either to or from the merry meeting? Allowing that it is no worse than any other vain amusement, is this the criterion of your duty?

THE PRAYERLESS HOME.

BY PROFESSOR ALDEN.

"I have a good offer for my farm," said Mr. Earl to his wife, and I think I shall sell it."

"Why do you wish to sell it?" said Mrs. Earl.

"The land is stony and partly worn out. I can go into a new country where land is cheap and fertile, and realize a much larger return for the same amount of labour."

"If we go into a new country, there will be no schools for our children."

"Our children are not old enough to go to school; by the time they are old enough, it is most likely schools will be established wherever we may go."

"We may also be deprived of the privilege of attending the service of God."

"We can take our bibles with us and can read them on the ship, if we should happen to settle at a distance from a place of worship."

"It will be far better for us to remain here, where we can educate our children; and bring them under the sound of the gospel."