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W. H. M. the Best of Them All

Dear Editor,—Here I come again. I was very glad to see my letter in print. I have the last issue and I have read it from cover to cover, and I will say that it is the best paper I receive, and I take a lot of papers. Some of the girls and boys seem to oppose dancing. Well, for my part, I cannot see any harm in it. I see that "Puzzled" thinks that there is harm in dancing, because he does not care to dance while the preacher is around. Well, I believe that true religion can be taken to where there is dancing as well as to church. In fact, it should, because I don't believe a decent young man would take his sister or sweetheart to a dance if he thought there was any evil to come from it. If the young people would conduct themselves like they should, I see no more harm in dancing than playing a game of checkers. Yes, I agree with "Sky-Scraper," that there is good and bad in all of us, and I believe that if the German people only knew what they had been fighting for, there would have been an end to this terrible war long ago. I agree with "Light of the Morning," that there is no life like country life, where a person can get out and "shake themselves," as the saying goes. "Bookworm," if you only learned to dance, you would think that there was no better sport; but, of course, there are other pastimes that suit just as well; and if there was nothing else but dancing I am afraid there would not be so many of us in favor of it. Why, sure, "A Boob McNutt," we bachelors just think it great to be talked about, but I don't agree with Chatterbox when she says that the bachelors don't need any pity. I should say we do. Yes, "Farmer Girl," it is all right; and what we should all do is to go to church; but, of course, too much of one thing is not good. Well, dear Editor and readers, I guess I have gone the limit, and perhaps a little further; but I hope not, so I will close, hoping to hear from some of the readers, and wishing the Editor and members every success.

RANCHER.

Get New Topic

Dear Editor,—As my first letter managed to get published, I thought I would try again. I see that The Western Home Monthly has readers in England, Scotland and all over. I always sent my copies overseas when I had read them, but have not since the war finished. I think someone should start a different topic from "dancing," as the correspondents have been arguing that so long. I do not care very much for dancing, but don't see very much harm in the little country dances. I like socials. "Contented Bach" certainly has a dreadful opinion of girls. I think he should, by all means, stay a "bach." No, Capt. G., we have been doing lots of things besides dancing since the men left for France. I liked "Cheerio's" letters, and hope she will write again; also "A Canadian." I got some very nice correspondents through my last letter. I live in a very pretty little valley in B. C., with the mountains all around, and the river running in and out, but it is very quiet. I am very fond of painting, reading and music. This is getting rather long, so will close, as before.

MILLY MIGGS.

Dancing Once More

Dear Editor.—I have just now read Mr. "Puzzled's" article in your edition of May relative to dancing, and while without hesitation admitting that "Christ and his teaching should be our guide," I would like Mr. "Puzzled" to point to the chapter and verse in the scripture where Christ taught that dancing is either wrong or dangerous. If he can do that he has gained his point; if not, why does he introduce that statement: "Can we take Christ into the dance?" Does he mean can we engage in the dance and be in the spirit of prayer? If that is his meaning, I would say "Yes, just as much as in any other enjoyment." If, however, he believes

he is doing wrong, then my answer would be "No;" for no one can be in the spirit of prayer and believing he is doing wrong. I once heard a man who came into a room where a game of checkers was going on, remark that the players were "going to the devil," and he immediately left the room. I suppose he would have felt guilty if he had played. If the Puritan of three hundred years ago had eaten a piece of mince pie, he would have felt that he was "doffing his hat" to the devil. Doubtless Mr. "Puzzled" would eat a piece of mince pie and wonder where the Puritan saw the evil. Doubtless the Puritan would have been horrified at other things Mr. "Puzzled" allows and sees no harm in. After all, this question of dancing is one of training. There is absolutely nothing in the act of beating time with the feet that is not in keeping step or marching to music, while the feet and hands are not so constitutionally different as to make playing the piano a right thing and beating time to the music with the feet a wrong thing. I felt rather amused—possibly I was wrong in allowing that feeling to creep over me—in his reference to the preacher. I would advise Mr. "Puzzled" to form the practice of leaving those parties when the preacher does, knowing as he does by the uneasiness of the people what is to follow. But now, Mr. "Puzzled," are you really sure that the preacher is not wanted? My opinion is that he leaves because he does not want to be there, and that the people wait till he is gone out of deference to his known wishes; and I give him credit for leaving, just as I would give Mr. "Puzzled" credit for leaving rather than try to force his own personal opinion on others who have an equal right to think for themselves.

Has Mr. "Puzzled" noticed that Christ was at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, and actually helped on the festivities. The good book does not say whether or not the officiating clergyman left before the festivities began. One thing we do know, that Christ did not frown on enjoyments. Dancing was in that day an amusement at these festivities, and I fail to find any condemnation by that Greatest of all Teachers.

Now, my dear Mr. "Puzzled," you were trained from infancy to believe dancing to be wrong, and you are now searching for reasons to substantiate the correctness of your teaching. Had your parents been Jews, you would be possibly searching to prove that eating pork is sinful, with possibly a little more hope of success than in your present search. Had you been trained in East India you might have avoided touching the fat of the dead cow for fear of losing caste, or had it been your fortune to have been a North American Indian, you would have hesitated to bury your dead without placing beside him the bow and arrow with which he would roam the plains of the "happy hunting ground."

As I see it, dancing is wrong to the one whose conscience condemns it; but I do not find in the teaching of the good Book that he is justified in judging others who enjoy it as an innocent pastime and see no evil in it.

SASKATCHEWAN.

A Last Word on Dancing

Dear Editor.—Perhaps the subject of "dancing" is somewhat monotonous by this; nevertheless, after all the pros and cons have been heard, the fact remains that it is not dancing itself that is harmful but rather the injudicious manner of its use by some of the participants.

Dancing in its earliest form was an expression of strong emotion, and hence came to be associated with religious feeling. The religious dance was known among the Israelites; it found a place in the processions to the Egyptian temples, and was cultivated by the Greeks and Romans.

Although dancing has never found any permanent place in Christian rites, it has often been known in Christian ceremonies. Carol dances were practised by the early Christians. Till as late as 1737, "la bergette" was danced at Besancon at Easter. At Seville cathedral dur-

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