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AMUSEMENTS.

The Scriptures do not furnish us with a minute code of rules for the regulation of our lives. Certain grand principles are laid down, and if these are accepted and acted out, the result will be all that could be desired. We are not commanded to refrain from such and such kinds of food or drink. There are no rules as to the shape or material of our clothing. There is no catalogue of the amusements in which we may blamelessly indulge. But there are principles proclaimed with relation to all these points, so plain, so pointed, so simple, that no sincere inquirer can ever be far astray with regard to the path of duty. May I go to the theatre? May I go to the ball? May I go to the large fashionable party and join there in the giddy dance, either as an actor or as a spectator? The Presbyterian Church has no law laid down, in so many words, on these points. But the practice and the sentiments of the Church, as founded on and formed by the word of God, are most unquestionably opposed to such indulgencies. What say the Scriptures?—"We should walk in *newness of life*." "Therefore we are debtors not to the flesh, to live after the flesh." Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." We are told to avoid even the "appearance of evil." We are commanded, whether we eat or drink, or *whatever* we do, to do all to the glory of God. In all things, we are to be followers and imitators of our Saviour.

The Bible is our great Church Directory and Statute Book, and we must hear with reverence the awful voice that speaks to us from the Sacred page. Life is too short and too solemn to be wasted in frivolous amusements. Its opportunities are too precious to be thrown away at the shrine of selfish pleasure. While God is above us, while death is approaching us, while Heaven and Hell are before us, while souls are perishing without Christ, can we, dare we, waste time, health, money, influence, character, opportunity,—in pursuits that bring no glory to God, and no possible profit to ourselves or others? Can we, Christians, do so and be guiltless?

It is unquestionable that there is too much time, and mind, and money wasted by members and adherents of our Church in amusements that are unprofitable, and in indulgence which is highly inexpedient. This is a grave charge, and it is not lightly made. Christians are bound to consider carefully what is expedient as well as what is right. They are not at liberty to place a stumbling block in a brother's way.

They are to avoid everything that tends to hinder the progress of religion, or to harden the heart, or to confirm the worldly-minded in their sin. They should beware, not only of what is certainly sinful, but of what is questionable. Amusements which lead to *late hours*, (however innocent in themselves) are dangerous. Young persons are kept from their homes till midnight, or two or three hours after midnight. The family circle is broken. Family worship cannot be duly observed. Mind