

low, mean, dirty business of marble-playing? Was such a thing, ever? Seest thou a lad in the streets, in the fields, at his marbles? What the conclusion? In the road to ruin? most certainly. A scared conscience, a callous heart, a turning away from the path of life to the path of death, is sure to accompany these games, sooner or later.

‘My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not!’ ‘Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not into the way of evil men.—Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away.’—Prov. 1 : 10. Also 4 : 14, 15.

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God, who formed the laws of nature, formed also the human heart, and has so adapted the one to the other, as to promote in every variety of mode, the enjoyment of the beings he has made. There is no end to the kinds of enjoyment, which God has thus opened to us everywhere.—*Abbott*.

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When a book raises your spirit, and inspires you with noble and generous feelings, seek for no other rule to judge the work by ; it is good and made by a good workman.

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### THE BALL-ROOM.

Miss — was lovely and accomplished, and from a child feared the Lord. She enjoyed the advantages of a good education, and highly respectable connexions ; her grandfather and father holding successively responsible situations under the crown. In early life she communed with God's people, and great hopes were entertained of her happiness and usefulness in the church. But she was prevailed upon to attend a ball, given by Sir —. She doubted the propriety of going, but was told by her relations, if she did not she would know nothing of life ; treat the distinguished individual who invited her with disrespect ; and, above all, many good people would be there, and there was no harm in going. She did not enjoy herself whilst there ; returned home unhappy ; and resolved no more to visit so unhallowed a place. She was faithfully reproved by a Minister, who had been one of the guides of her youth ; but being convinced of her contrition, he again admitted her to the Lord's table, and can never forget her demeanour on that solemn occasion. Shortly afterwards she was seized with a disease, which ended in death. For some days she had no comfort : the visit to the ball-room affected her mind exceedingly ; but God in mercy manifested himself to her : and she died happy. Almost her last words were, “ I am happy ; all is well ; but, my dear mother, keep my sisters away from the ball-room.”