

contact with improper company, should be avoided. This rule condemns the theatre at once; it is an unsafe place, because the immoral frequent it, and the religious will not be found in it. The balls and dancing parties of the day come under the same condemnation. So does the race-course.

It is a safe rule for young persons to participate in no amusements in which they would dislike to be seen by their parents or friends whose good opinion they desire to have. On all such ought to be written the words of the wise man:—"Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant; but he knoweth not that the dead are there, and that her guests are in the depths of hell."

It is equally safe to lay down the rule that no amusement should be participated in of which the propriety is in the slightest degree doubted. If under a person's early training, though that may have been unnecessarily severe, the weakest twinge of a doubt is felt about any recreation, it is safer to abstain from it. Even if it be not wrong, it is better to lose such a pleasure than to sin against conscience.

Pleasure, even that which is proper in itself, should not be a great aim of life. Mere pleasure-seekers are a contemptible class. A dinner which would be all dessert would be a poor thing to live upon. Recreation is in place only after work. Pleasure pursued for its own sake will not give real and lasting happiness. Amusements pall upon the taste; and even in this life growing years need something more to give support under earth's trials, and to strengthen for earth's duties, and to sustain under earth's advancing weaknesses. Then there is the life beyond, in the light of which this life, in its heavier work and lighter recreation, should be considered. "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment."

Missionary Intelligence.

MISSIONS OF FREE CHURCH.

Rev. John Cooper writing from Nagpore gives the following interesting intelligence: "It is surely a matter of joy and congratulation that, in this my first letter to you as Secretary to the Foreign Missions Committee, I should be able to report the cases of four young individuals who were received last Sabbath evening into the membership of the native Church by baptism. They all belong to our orphanage—one boy and three girls—and have been under the care and training of the mission during periods extending from five to ten years. Every morning at worship, in the school daily, and on Sabbaths in the Bible class and church, the saving truth of the gospel has been pressed on their attention and acceptance, till at length, of their own accord, they have come forward and publicly declared themselves disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"About two months ago, one morning after worship, all of them waited behind, and separately intimated a very strong desire to be baptized, as they believed on Jesus, and wished to be numbered among his followers. I told them how delighted I was to hear of their good resolution, and that I would take the application of each of them into consideration and let them know in due time. Three or four weeks afterwards, evidently thinking that there was no need of further delay, they again presented themselves,