

AMUSEMENT AND RECREATION IN THE  
CHRISTIAN LIFE. THEIR PLACE  
GENERALLY.

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"All human race, from China to Peru,  
Pleasure, howe'er disguised by art, pursue."

"In our amusements a certain limit is to be placed, that we may not devote ourselves to a life of pleasure, and thence fall into immorality."

These two quotations, the one from the author of the "Universal Love of Pleasure," and the other from the great Cicero, may well serve as an indication of the proposed treatment of our subject, "Amusement and Recreation in the Christian Life, their Place Generally." . . . .

Popular opinion on this subject, as indeed on so many others, is deplorably mixed and indefinite. Few there are who have taken the trouble to think it out in all its bearings; and it is to be feared fewer still are they who have formulated for themselves rules for the regulation of their Christian conduct, having before their eyes the fear of God, their soul's health, and the sure and secret working of the all-pervading law of example and personal influence upon the souls of others. Human nature, ever prone to extremes, utters violent and emphatic speech on both sides of a question, takes strong and often untenable ground. So we have in this case those whose present temperament, education, and that religious bias for which the course of history through the Church's varied record is responsible, decrying on one side all amusement as sinful, while on the other