

Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold : but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.—1 Pet. i. 18, 19.

### INNOCENT (?) GAMES.



NUMBER of years ago a lady told me a sad story of the fate of a young man whose mother was an acquaintance of hers.

It was in this wise.

The young man was an only child. His parents, being anxious that their child should grow up rightly, studied to know the best course to pursue. His associates were of a worldly character, and if they allowed him to mingle with them they feared he would soon be beyond their reach. To avoid this, and to keep him at home, they concluded to bring into their home the same amusements that would be enjoyed outside, and join with him in them. His mind inclined more especially to various games, including card-playing; and finally anything he suggested they would assent to. Card-playing seemed to be his choice among all his amusements, and so almost every evening was spent in this way.

The boy became quite expert at all games, and soon had a reputation for great skill. When he was about fifteen years old his father died, leaving a considerable property to his wife and child. The family ties were now broken, and home did not seem as before; but the poor boy had learned an art that afterward led to ruin and death.

He grew up into manhood, and spent his leisure hours in gambling saloons. And in one of these dens, in a moment of anger, he struck a blow at one of his companions, which resulted in death.

He was arrested, taken to gaol, tried, and condemned to death. The day before his execution a number of friends were gathered in his cell, when, in their presence he turned to his mother and said—

“Pardon me, my mother, I would bring no reproach upon you. You thought it was right, you meant it for my good; but, my dear mother, it was the games and card-playing that led

me into that gambling saloon. Had I never known how to play cards, I should not have been found in this place.”

It is a quarter of a century since I sat by her fireside, and heard that woman, with tearful eyes, relate this mournful tale. I have never forgotten it, and I record it here as an admonition to other parents, that they may be wise before it is too late.—*Harriet B. Hastings.*

[We would desire this to be an admonition to those Associations, who have introduced or may intend to introduce games into their Rooms. They are a device of the Devil, and it is our firm conviction that in the Great Day when all things shall be revealed, it will be seen that for every young man led to the Lord or brought under the sound of His word by such questionable means, there have been an equal (if not greater) number taught to take their first step in the downward course.

We have in our mind at present an instance somewhat similar to the above. The games were introduced by the Father who hoped thereby to keep his sons at home. He learned to play so that he might take part with his sons, but soon they were able to beat him in every game, and it became monotonous. They therefore looked for abler antagonists, which the Billiard Room furnished, and soon the father had to mourn the folly of which he had been guilty.

The old rat's advice to the young one, when it was asking as to the best way in which to get a piece of cheese out of the trap without being caught, was “Don't try it. So we say to Associations, in all branches of their work. “Don't try this plan” it is dangerous. But as our words may not have much weight we call attention to God's word. “Abstain from ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL.” 1 THESS. V. 22 ]

Ye are not your own For ye are bought with a price. therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.—1 Cor. vi. 19, 20.