

I never in my life, even before I received the blessing of sanctification, dare play either chequers or croquet; and do you think I dare do it now? I am not finding fault with those in the world who have lots of time to waste, for they perhaps might better be at an amusement so harmless in itself as at something worse. But there is a seed time, and blessed be God there is a harvest; and I for one would not like a harvest of wasted golden hours laid up for me. My Christian friends, do not count me as your enemy, for these are the words of the Lord. God says to me: "Take that pail and go for that water," and I promptly obeyed His voice. As I returned with the water God speaks to me again: "Say, those yards would be a good place for a prayer-meeting." If you before you commence to play croquet would say the Lord's own prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," I think you would see it is wrong to play it, for it is temptation to greater evil. The drunkard says: "one glass more;" the dancer says: "one round more;" the card-player says: "one game more;" the croquet-player says: "one game more;" but the Bible says: "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." I once read a story of a young lady who was an only daughter. She was brought up to take pleasure in dancing. By and by she went to visit her uncle's family, and they were opposed to this course of training. While there she became convinced that she was a sinner, and she repented of her sins. She knew well that she could not indulge in this silly amusement, and at the same time live to God; but she determined to let Christ reign over her, and cost what it would she would be the Lord's. She for a time kept the solemn covenant; but after she returned home her mother thought religion too gloomy a thing for her, and hence she tried to persuade her to attend those halls of revelry and vice. She prevailed on her to attend just one more, and for this purpose she got her a costly dress which was richly adorned with costly trimmings. She attended once more the ball room: but God said to her mother, "That's enough for you, worse than heathen mother; I will lay your idolized daughter down and teach you and other like foolish mothers a never-to-be-forgotten lesson."