

being invited to sit down in the verandah of a house, we sang a hymn, and as many as 150 persons soon gathered to listen. My sister explained the hymns and then talked to them of the love of Jesus. We were surprised to see them listening without murmuring, particularly as it was in a Native State. We accompanied Mr. Builder out nearly every day, sometimes driving 10 to 20 miles, to different villages. Once while in the village of Turla we visited the Thakur's wife, she received us pleasantly, and was glad to hear us sing. While at Dhar we had the privilege of being present at the Maharaja's Durbar, held in honor of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, when His Highness the Maharajah asked Mr. Builder to pray to God for the Queen and the Viceroy. He did so in the presence of all the chiefs and nobles, etc., lifting up his heart to God that He, for Christ's sake, might richly bless the Queen, Viceroy, the Maharajah, and his State. May this incident be of happy omen for our work. Surely from it, we may take courage and look for greater things in the future.

#### "IF I JOIN THE CHURCH, MAY I DANCE?"

"If I join the church, have you any objection to my dancing?"

Such was the question of Mary W.—addressed to her pastor as he was speaking to her about her making a public profession of religion. She was about eighteen years of age, of high social standing, intelligent, cultivated, thoroughly a lady in feeling and manner, and surrounded by all that makes life attractive and pleasant.

Having been hopefully converted, after much thought and prayer she had decided to unite with the church of which Mr. A— was the pastor. But before so doing, she asked him, in the conversation alluded to, "If I join the church, Mr. A—, have you any objection to my dancing? I am very fond of it, and feel very unwilling to give it up. What do you think of it?"

"I will answer your question by another," said her pastor. "Suppose there was a large and fashionable party, or a public ball in town, and you were invited to it. And suppose you had accepted the invitation, and that going at rather a late

hour as you entered the room you found all engaged in the dance, and that you saw me, your pastor, taking part in it, and leading it, what would you think?"

A look of surprise, almost of astonishment, passed over her face, as she frankly said, "I should think it very strange, and greatly inconsistent."

"Well," replied Mr. A—, "if dancing is right and a good thing why should not I enjoy it as well as you? And if in its influence and tendencies it is wrong and evil, why should you engage in it or wish it more than I? A minister is but a good man trying to do good to men. And there are not two standards, one for him and another for the member of his church; not two rules of Christian living, one for you and another for him. If he is to be spiritual, and set a holy example, and to come out from the world and be separate, and shun worldly amusements, why are not you? And if such amusements are right and proper for you as a follower of the Saviour, why are they not for him? And why should you or any member of the church wish to be or to do what you would not like to see him be or do?"

She thought a moment seriously, and then said, "It is plain to me now. I will never dance again." *And she never did.*

Uniting with the church by a public confession of her faith in Christ, she lived, and after some years died, an exemplary, faithful, spiritual Christian, a help to her pastor in every good word and work, and a bright example to all who knew her.

With this brief narrative in view, three thoughts are suggested for serious and prayerful consideration:

1. As to all worldly amusements, if you have the least doubt as to your conduct—if there is the least conflict between inclination and duty, go in prayer to the Saviour, and ask Him what you ought to do, and then act as you believe He would approve if He were present with you.

2. If there is the least doubt, is it not best to err on the safe side, and rather keep too far from the world, than to go too near to it?

3. Is it not right for you in this, as in all things, to take such a course, that if all were to imitate your example, it would make the church a holy and spiritual and useful church, and give you, personally, the highest and best influence as a devoted and faithful Christian.—*Ex.*