

But yet the Jesuits are right,—the Pope must be infallible,—or else the Head of the Church would be a simple minister, or mere shepherd, whereas he aspires to be vicar and representative of Christ on earth. He must be clothed with divine honour, then, and his opinions declared to be “incapable of euculation,” although he gave forth the absurd one of three years ago! and who does not see that this is a fulfilment of Paul’s writing in 2 Thes. ii. “Had the pen of inspiration traced by Paul been guided to say, “so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, and this is true of thee, *Pope Pius the Ninth,*” it could not more clearly have been photographed. Yes, the apostle’s description is true, and the system and its head so described by St. Paul must perish, as written in the 8th and 9th verses. If its working and success have come to pass as inspired prediction has declared, its overthrow and ruin will also come to pass as there written; and then Popery is a falling and doomed system, as surely as it has been a subtle and successful one. The pen of inspiration that has not belied the one has as little falsified the other; wherefore let us see at once our danger and our duty: our danger, in holding any complicity and communion therewith, and our duty to be separate from her errors, and, above all, to receive the truth as it is in Jesus, in the love of it, that we may be saved, (see 10th and 12th verses).  
H.

### A SERMON ON ‘THE MODERN BALL.’

THE Rev. W. W. Phelps of the Punjab, India, preached a sermon lately in which he referred to “the modern ball” in terms that gave great offence to his congregation, and it is said that the Bishop sympathizes with the congregation. We ask our readers to judge if his words were not those of “truth and soberness.” Below is an extract from the sermon:—

“And now I must ask a question which I fear may give some offence; but it is my duty to ask it, and I do so deliberately. Tried by this test, is the modern ball a legitimate amusement or not? Mistake me not. I speak of the ball with all its ordinary accompaniments and customs which make it to be that amusement which it is at the present day. I am not speaking of some theoretical ball, but of the ball as it is at this day. I am not speaking of the mere act of dancing in itself. The child, if pleased, will involuntarily dance. David danced before the Lord. The very book from which I have taken my texts says there is a time to dance. It is, I say advisedly, of the modern ball that I speak; and I ask, is it a legitimate amusement? Is it healthful to mind and body? Look at some of its features. Its hours are invariably late. It turns night into day. It wearies, in some cases, it almost prostrates, body and mind. If the pulse beating at fever heat is a mark of health, then is the maddening excitement of the ball room a healthy excitement. The ball room (here I speak of balls generally in all places, with no special allusion to this place) too often brings together many who had better not be associated together. It unites the pure and refined with those who are without these virtues. It leads to many acquaintances and intimacies which should never be formed. Some of its worst features, though naturalized in England, come not from an English source. I should be sorry to think they were of English origin. Some of the dances of the ball room are, I believe, the inventions of foreign libertines.

It speaks not well for this amusement that having the sanction of a higher class, it is resorted to by a lower, and in their hands made the occasion of fearful abuses. It should make religious and virtuous people ashamed of this amusement when we know that in London and in the great towns, it is made a sacrament of Satan, the handmaid of immorality, the rallying-place and the re-union of vice. Of course we may dissociate the ball in our minds from such ideas and such company, but I must express my strong belief, that seen under