

But dear reader, are there to be Races this year near where you live, and do you intend to go to these Races? Think a little before you make up your mind, and even though you see people who are older than you—and should be wiser than you—going, think seriously of what we now tell you. You will get no good there, but much harm. By going there, you will waste your precious time in sinful vanities, when you might be better employed. You should go nowhere unless you can ask God's blessing to accompany you; and surely you could not ask God to follow you to the Race Course: it is true God will be there, for he is in every place, "beholding the evil and the good," but when we speak of asking God to accompany us, we mean that his favor should go with us. Now it would be mocking God, to call him to favor and assist us in taking part in a practice that tends to dishonor him, injure his creatures and our fellow-men.

Again, who would like to die upon the Race Course? And fatal accidents are frequent at such places. The money wasted on such occasions, might be employed to relieve the needy, or to advance the cause of Christ. Think, too, on the scenes of wickedness that you must there meet with—scenes at which the pious mind must shudder—the kind of company with which you must mingle and into which you will be drawn—that you must go there in opposition to the law of God, and cannot therefore expect his blessing. Do you not in the morning and evening ask God "not to lead you into temptation, but to deliver you from evil," and do you expect God to answer such a petition, if you willingly rush into temptation. It would be awful profanity to kneel down before God who knows the heart, if you intended to go to the races, and to repeat these words; it would make your guilt and condemnation the greater. Do not then, if you intend to countenance the races either in words or actions, add to your other sins that of mocking God, by putting up the above petition,