

the astonished air with shouts and yells of triumph. See the blood of redemption streaming; see the cloud of desertion deepening; see the tide of life departing as the glaze gathers on his eyes, and the sword in a Father's hand is passed deeper and deeper into his heart! Hark to the awful cry that rises, loud and clear, in the stillness of the darkness, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

And when Death has done his work, and kind hands have taken down the body, and borne it slowly to the tomb—look there! You have looked on the face of the dead, but never on one that loved you half so well. You have kissed brows as icy cold, but death never stilled a heart so warm and true. No lips ever prayed for you like these; no hand ever wrought for you like that; nor eyes ever wept for you like those that are there closed in death.—Behold the Lamb of God, slain for your sins! Mary bends over the dear body, kisses the cold feet, and washes the bloody wounds with a flood of tears. Well she may! He had been a kind Lord to her; but not kinder than he will prove to any, to all who kneel with that blessed woman at his feet—weeping, longing, loving suppliants for saving mercy. Behold, and believe!—Hein is love indeed; not that we loved him, but that he loved us, and gave himself for us; suffering for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.—*Rev. Dr. Guthrie in Family Treasury.*

A TIME TO DANCE.

"Indeed, I don't see why you should be so opposed to dancing. The most religious people attend our balls, and even the Bible says there is a 'time to dance.'"

From the tone in which Isabel finished her sentence, it was plain she thought the last argument conclusive. But her friend only smiled, as she quietly said, "The Bible also says there is 'a time to kill.'"

"Well, and so there is," was the smart rejoinder. "The night our house was attacked by thieves, papa seized his pistols, and if the fellows had not run, he would have shot them."

"Yet I don't think your papa would take life except under necessity. He would not go out, and in cool blood shoot or stab one

of his neighbours, excusing himself under the plea that the Bible affirms there is a time to kill."

"Of course not!"

"No; neither do I strip my shoulders and bosom, and with a man's arm around my waist, frisk around a ball-room through the dead hours of the night, when all nature is asleep, because the good book says there is 'a time to dance.'"

"But we have accounts of dancing in different places through the Bible."

"Yes; will you please relate some of them and their attending circumstances?"

"I really do not remember the particulars."

"I feared so; for they who study God's Word until mind and memory become imbued with its holy teachings, never draw incorrect inferences from it; and by the same rule, a healthy Christian is never an advocate for dancing."

"Oh, Miss Dumbart?"

"I don't speak censoriously, dear; I speak in all charity when I say so. They who drink of the river of life, who walk in the light of God's countenance, do not seek enjoyment in the midnight dance. But to return to the Bible. The Orientals were a demonstrative people, and habitually made an outward display of their feelings. They rent their clothes, and tore their hair, and cut their flesh in sorrow; and they clapped their hands, shouted aloud, and danced when rejoicing. So in every place where dancing is mentioned in Scripture, it is recorded as an expression of joy. Miriam, followed by the women of Israel, went out 'singing, with timbrels and with dances,' when Pharaoh and his host were overthrown in the Red Sea. Jephthah's daughter went out to meet her father 'with timbrels and with dances,' when he came home after the conquest of the Ammonites; and when David returned from the slaughter of the Philistines, the women of Israel went out to meet him and King Saul, 'with singing and dancing, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.' The men also manifested their joy in this way. They danced around the golden calf in the wilderness, and King David 'danced before the Lord with all his might,' when bringing up the ark to Zion.

Such were the occasions, and such the manner of dancing during the Old Testament