

interested, with a smile of gratification. The fair must end, and it winds up by an auction, and off it goes "without a better bid." So winds up the day and the labors of the church for the promotion of the cause of Him who died to save us from sin and levity. I said *labors of the church*, for whatever we do by others as our agents, we do ourselves, and therefore the Baptist Church at Charity is<sup>7</sup> responsible for the fair and all its proceedings.

A church ought never to engage in any enterprise upon which she cannot ask the Divine blessing. I ask (not in levity) if the church, the preacher or any of the members could ask the Lord to bless the efforts of that day. I am sure the most irreligious man in the church would not dare thus to insult the Throne of Grace, by asking a blessing upon a fortune telling Doll Baby, a sham Post Office, &c., &c. I hope the reader will not suppose that I am caricaturing a Baptist fair, or that I am writing in a spirit of levity; by no means. Instead of feeling joyous over such a worldly exhibition under the garb and sanctities of religion, I feel more like weeping with my dishonored Master, when I see those who profess to love Him resorting to such stratagems to obtain money to sustain a cause which they are able but not willing to sustain. Would it be right for the world to secularise the christian name and profession to accomplish a worldly end? if not, is it right in the church to assume the garb of the world and resort to such stratagems to accomplish a religious end? Such exhibitions are unerring indications that the church is diseased, sadly afflicted with a worldly and covetous spirit.

I am fully aware that he who condemns any practice in which the church and world are engaged, is apt to incur their censure. I would ask the pious of the Baptist church, ought those things so to be? Would the Saviour and his Apostles sanction and attend one of these fairs? Think you that the money thus obtained is as acceptable to the Lord as the free-will offering? Under the Jewish dispensation, I question whether money thus raised would have been allowed to go into the treasury of the Lord. It is useless to say it is an *innocent* (?) enterprise because it has the good of religion in view, and that money is obtained in this way which could be obtained in no other. The end does not sanctify the means, nor should we "do evil that good might come." Our Baptist friends can plead neither *poverty* nor *weakness* in justification of fairs. They have numbers and wealth, and are fully able and more than able to sustain their cause without resorting to