

instances, entirely neglected, and they are left to grow up without restraint, or proper guidance, and to roam at large in ways of folly and evil; and if not reclaimed, by the interposing power of divine grace, they become, lost as to the church, lost as regards the real benefit of society, and finally lost for eternity. Mr. Sutherland has mentioned other religious teachers besides parents, meaning, it may be presumed, ministers of religion, and teachers in Sunday Schools, and Bible Classes. With all deference and respect towards all these honorable and responsible characters, it may here be allowable to suggest to the schools and successors of the prophets, and the other teachers, that it seems extremely expedient and proper that in the present day of such numerous ways and forms of temptation, and seducements to contamination and evil, they should frequently warn and exhort all those under their instruction, against each and all of the prevalent hindrances to religious training, and Christian principles and conduct. Most especially should they explicitly and earnestly exhort both parents and children to refrain from indulging in those ensnaring and contaminating amusements, the romance,—cards and dice,—the ball-room,—the vain and foolish masquerade carnival,—the theatre; and the numerous other modes of sensual gratification, by which such multitudes of young and old, of both sexes, are withheld from serious reflections, and religious exercises, and more and more led astray; and many of them, as to the eternal world, finally ruined. In this inventive and progressive age, additions are being constantly made to seducing and corrupting modes and means, and forming powerful and successful hindrances to the advance of true spiritual Christianity.

Special mention may here be made, and remarks offered, as to the recent establishment in this city of one of the chief means of such allurement and seduction to sin and folly and pernicious results,—the erection of a building for theatrical performances, with all the means and appliances for recommending the fascinating evil. And now, night after night, it is in attractive operation and display, affording sensual gratification, and producing dissipation in various forms, weakening, or corrupting, the mental powers, and moral feelings, causing misemployment of time, the lessening, or withholding, means for promoting religious, benevolent, and other useful purposes; and forming a powerful hindrance to spiritual conversion, and the progress and general interests of Scriptural Christianity. *Theatres* have always been chief places of resort of dissipated and