





Texas Christian Advocate
[For the TEXAS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE. BEFORE THE PARTY.]

"Look here, Eula!" invitations to a party at General Stacy's; wont it be splendid? said Nellie Moore to her sister Eula, as she showed her invitations for both to a private dancing party.

"Dear Nellie, I have no desire to go the party."
"Why, Eula, what has come over you? You were always so glad to get an invitation to a party."

"You forget, Nellie, I have joined the church, and can not accept such an invitation; and I do not consider it a compliment, though it may have been so intended."

"O, Eula, I can not imagine how you can wish to forsake all pleasure because you have joined the church."
"Not all pleasure, Nellie; but you know our church does not sanction dancing; and, furthermore, I have lost all relish for it."

"Straining at a gnat! There are church members that dance, and several will be there to-night. I do not see why you should be more straight-laced than they."

"Well, Nellie, I do not think you can understand my feelings, nor appreciate my position, because you have never experienced religion."

"I do not see, Eula, why you should cut yourself off from society and all the pleasures of the world because you have professed religion. I am sure many such attend parties and dance, too."
"It is my opinion, Nellie, that no one who has been truly converted has any relish for the dance, so long as the religion of Christ is retained in the heart; and that those church members who attend dancing parties, either were never converted or they have lost their religion. I know my tastes have changed, and the gay society in which I once delighted is not congenial to me now; and should I go with you to the party, it would not afford me one particle of pleasure; but I would return humiliated and crushed in spirit, and with a wounded conscience. Besides all this, Nellie, I have taken the vows of the church and would not dare break them. The same God who said, 'No drunkard shall inherit eternal life,' has also said: 'If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him, and she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.' The apostle has given these injunctions: 'Love not the world, neither the things of the world; and be not conformed to this world.' And, Nellie, the social dance is a plain act of conformity to the world, and how could I even respect myself, to say nothing of the reproach I would bring upon the church, were I to attend the party, though it be at General Stacy's?"

being a true Christian. My own experience gives me this assurance. And, dear Nellie, I have found a worthy object for which to live, and one that affords me more real pleasure than all other things. I know you think it strange for me to talk as I do, but I live in a new world, and have more happiness in the society of Christians and in thinking of my Savior, than I ever had in the mazy rounds of fashionable life. A true Christian is the noblest being in the world. And all my energies shall be employed in the cause of religion. To be pure and good, and to have God's blessing and approval, is now my highest aim, and his service is my chief delight. I hope never to lower my standard, nor to compromise my Christian integrity by engaging in any amusement of doubtful propriety. I am now living on a higher plane, and enjoy life more than I ever did, because the object of my life is nobler and purer. I have lost my relish for those social pleasures usually resorted to by the world as a source of enjoyment. Nellie, a life that seeks only for amusement and worldly pleasure, seems to me to have too low an aim, and to be too selfish in its character. To shine for the sake of shining, to spend one's time and money just to look pretty, or for mere admiration, is selfish and unworthy. Culture and grace are desirable when sought with worthy motives, and are more attractive than when only for the sake of polish. Jesus went about doing good, and that is the noblest record ever given. I can not come down from such aspirations to a frivolous, aimless amusement."
"O, Miss Lofly, you are too high for me. If you are climbing the mountain, I must stay in the valley with the humble bee and sip the sweets from every flower, ha! ha! Here is a polka I have just learned; see how you like it?"

Nellie, seating herself at the piano, commenced playing, while Eula sat in a pleasant, thoughtful mood. Presently Nellie turns around and says: "Eula, dear, if you will not go to the party, then stay and enjoy yourself in your own way, and I'll take mine; for I could not think of missing the grandest party of the season. And O, if you please, lend me some jewelry, for I want to shine, even in borrowed plumage."
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