

**THE RIGHT CHOICE; OR, THE  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
WORLDLY DIVERSIONS AND  
RATIONAL RECREATIONS**

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The right choice; or, The difference between worldly diversions and rational recreations by  
Wm. Marsh

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REV. WM. MARSH, D.D.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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FROM whatever quarter it may come, a useful hint should never be despised. Though I have no particular faith in dreams, which may arise from a variety of causes, yet I am quite ready to acknowledge, with thankfulness, that I once derived such a hint from a dream.\* Early introduced into the world, and without the least conception of any evil tendency in its amusements, much of my time was spent at card-parties, balls, theatres, and race-grounds. But a fit of sickness confined me to my bed, and one night I dreamed that the day of judgment was come. The thought followed me when awake, and led me to think on the subject of religion. I then embraced the opportunity of attending the powerful ministry of Mr.

\* Job, xxxiii. 14-17.

Cadogan.\* This, with a diligent reading of the Holy Scriptures, rendered my former pleasures very doubtful. It was some time, indeed, before I renounced them all. But in proportion as I became acquainted with the deep importance and the superior pleasures of a religious life, I not only withdrew myself from the card-party, the ball-room, the theatre, and the race-ground, but I also became very anxious to lead others to seek the higher good. I first induced a beloved sister to hear Mr. Cadogan; and a sermon on Isa. liii. 3, "He is despised and rejected of men," made a deep impression on her mind. Another sermon on 1 Pet. ii. 7, "To you who believe He is precious," so deeply convinced her of the Redeemer's love, and of the blessedness of giving the heart to Him, that she also forsook the amusements in which she had before delighted.† As she was engaged to be married to a man of the world, who, although unprejudiced, had not seen things in this light, she requested me to write my thoughts at length, on worldly amusements, for

\* See "Life of the Hon. and Rev. W. B. Cadogan," by the Rev. R. Cecil.

† After a Christian course of some years, she fell "asleep in Jesus," saying, "Happy, happy! Christ is all!"



his sake, and with the hope that the subject might be generally useful. This is the origin of a "Tract on Non-conformity to the World;" and it was regarded, at the time, as giving quite sufficient reasons for those persons to withdraw from such diversions who had any scruple on the subject. This tract afterwards drew one, who had at command all the amusements that society could afford, to seek higher and more durable pleasures. I can therefore only hope and pray, that the Holy Spirit may accompany whatever truth may be contained in the following pages, and so lead the reader to a more profitable use of time, property, and talents, of which we must all give an account at the last day.



# THE RIGHT CHOICE

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## CHAPTER I.

"Every interest or pleasure of life, even the most trifling amusement, is suffered to postpone the one thing necessary."—ROCKS.

THE spirit of this present world and the spirit of true religion have ever been opposed to each other. It was so in the days of Cain and Abel—of Noah and the Antediluvians—of Moses and the people of Israel—of the Jews in the days of Malachi who feared God, and of those who feared Him not.\* Therefore, the directions given in the New Testament on this subject were not, as some have supposed, intended merely against the vicious practices of the Heathen, but against the vain and thoughtless spirit of those who had a revelation from heaven. God's professing people are included among those of whom St. John speaks, when He says, "They are of the world;

\* Mal. iii. 14-18.