STATEMENTS ON RECREATION AND AMUSEMENTS

"Since I professed to be a follower of Christ at the of twelve years, I have never engaged in any such simple plays and amusements as named below (chess, checkers, charades, back-gammon, hunt the whistle, and blind man's buff. Neither have I at any time given my influence in their favor. I do not know how to play checkers, chess, back-gammon, fox and geese, or anything of the kind. I have spoken in favor of recreation, but have ever stood in great doubt of the amusements introduced at the Institute at Battle Creek." EGW"RH Oct. 8, 1867.

"To spend money, which is so hard to obtain, on materials with which to lay tennis and cricket, is not in harmony with the Testimonies which have been given to our school in Battle Creek. It has been understood all through our ranks that these games are not the proper education to be given in any of our schools.

"The school in Avondale is to be a pattern for other schools which shall be established among our people. Games and amusements are the curse of the Colonies, and they must not be allowed in our school here. If those attending this school are not willing to come into line, they refuse to act as it is their duty to act, let them return to their homes." E. G. W., Calendar, Avondale School for Christian Workers, 1910, p. 42 s quoted in OUTLINE STUDIES FROM THE TESTIMONIES by Clifton Taylor, p. 138 (third ed. 1918).

"Those who believed when Noah began to build the ark, lost their faith through associations with unbelievers who aroused all the old passion for amusement and display." RH Sept. 15, 1904.

". . . Useful labor will take the place of the croquet ground . . . which benefit no one." Health reformer Sept. 1873.

"The amusements are doing more to counteract the working of the Holy Spirit than anything else, and the Lord is grieved." Special Testimonies on Education 181.

"I cannot find an instance in the life of Christ where He devoted time to play and amusements. He was the great Educator for the present and the future life. I have not been able to find one instance where He educated His disciples to engage in amusement of football or pugilistic games, to obtain physical exercise or in theatrical performances; and yet Christ was our pattern in all things." FCE 229.

"I was told by my guide: 'Look ye, and behold the idolatry of My people, to whom I have been speaking, rising up early, and presenting to them their dangers. I looked that they should bring forth fruit.' There were some who were striving for the mastery, each trying to excel

the other in swift running of their bicycles. There was a spirit of strife and contention among them as to which should be the greatest. The spirit was similar to that manifested in the baseball games on the college ground. Said my Guide: 'These things are an offense to God. Both near and afar off souls are perishing for the bread of life and the water of salvation.' When Satan is defeated in one line, he will be all ready with other schemes and plans which will appear attractive and needful, and which will absorb money and thought, and encourage selfishness so that he can overcome those who are so easily led into a false and selfish indulgence." 8T 52.

"I do not condemn the simple exercise of playing ball. . ." stated EGW in 2SM 322. Some have stretched this to mean baseball!

July 4, 1912 EGW was given the "Recreation Vision," after the Sanitarium had celebrated this holiday with a baseball game, pie-eating contest, and other silly games. EGW discussed the matter very tenderly. 6BIO 370.

Tennis and cricket. "They were presented to me as a species of idolatry." CPT 350.

A holiday in Avondale is described with tennis, croquet and amusements. "They were presented to me as a species of idolatry. . . . Turning to the teachers, He said, 'You have made a mistake the effects of which it will be hard to efface. The Lord God of Israel is not glorified in the school. If at this time the Lord should permit your life to end, many would be lost, eternally separated from God and the righteous. These things are a repetition of the course of Aaron, when at the foot of Sinai he allowed the first beginning of wrong by permitting a spirit of reveling and commonness to come into the camp of Israel." CPT 350-1. Prof. Hughes writes a letter describing this day.