

WARNED AGAINST BILLIARDS.

A CHICAGO PREACHER DENOUNCES THE GAME FROM THE PULPIT.

CHICAGO, Nov. 29.—Young men packed the Lincoln-Street Methodist Church to the entrance this evening to hear the Rev. Mr. Leach preach on "Billiards." "I never knew a man who played billiards to say grace before meals," said Mr. Leach. "I never knew a man who played billiards to be a prayerful man; or an active Christian, and I never knew a billiard player to be a steadfast church member, although his name might be on the rolls. Christianity and billiards are antagonistic. The young men of Chicago have during the last 10 days been enthusiastic over a billiard tournament, and have been lavish in their admiration of the three players. Therefore it is right that I should speak on the subject. Don't let the glamour of these champions, as they are called, lead you into these dens of moral death. If a minister of the Gospel had been at that tournament the dime museums would have secured and exhibited him by this time. The people we meet at billiard halls are not such men as we would care to take home and introduce into our homes, unless we received them in the name of the Lord. Billiards cannot be run successfully upon the temperance plan; the proprietors have found that out. The money there expended belongs rightfully to the wives and children. Students often fail to graduate at college simply because they have handled the cue and chalk more than their books and pencils. Think of Longfellow and Tennyson laying down their manuscript and taking up a billiard cue! The man who has played billiards all the week does not feel like being religious on Sunday; the Christian man knows that the game is harmful, and you rarely find in his parlor a billiard table. Billiards are not as bad as cards, I admit, but you do not find the game in the homes of those who love Christ."

The New York Times

Published: November 30, 1885

Copyright © The New York Times