

For the American.

Standing in Prayer.

It is remarked by one, that "little minds mind little things." There are a great many little things that gigantic minds overlook, that still exert some considerable influence. Some have taken the liberty to charge our best preachers with pride, because they stand & pray in Church, instead of kneeling. And some persons have been inconsistent enough to sit themselves, in time of prayer, & neither stand or kneel. But I hear one say, it is of no kind of difference what position the body is in, so that the heart is right. Perhaps, however, it does make a little. Bodily exercise profiteth little, & that is making the least of it. But the apostle does not say, It does not profit any thing at all. The true state of the case is this: Standing, is a scriptural, grave & reverend mode. Kneeling is an humble, reverend mode, & is also scriptural. Prostration, or falling on the ground, is ~~also~~ indicative of great distress & is also a scriptural mode. Now the good judgment of the minister, should determine when it is proper to adopt any of these modes; but I firmly believe he ought to reprove or at least ^{disapprove} ~~disapprove~~ that idle, contemptuous, unscriptural, mode, of sitting in prayer. I have only a few reasons to offer for standing in prayer, in the introduction & conclusion of ^{the} worship. The first is, it is easy for the minister to induce all present to conform to this mode. 2^d. It is more convenient in crowded assemblies. 3^d. It is more decent than to be compelled to kneel on a floor all defiled with tobacco juice, which will always be the case, as long as people love tobacco more than they love decency. 4th. Lastly, there are many who will not kneel nor fall prostrate, but will prefer sitting still, & thereby apparently treat the whole with contempt, that would be willing to stand, if the minister himself would stand.

Four copies without names
in one package directed to E. O. Hall
Honolulu & changed to me

Please have these packages ready
Friday morning as I expect to be a
day with Mrs Spalding.

You had better write to Mr Court
for paper giving the size, send
also for what I have borrowed of
Gov. Abernethy. Send to Daimon
for type, make the trial.

Yours in love

H. H. Spalding