

versation. But in all such cases the Rest of the Sabbath is broken, the spiritual design of the institution is lost sight of, and not unfrequently, more sin is committed, than if the daily work had not been omitted. If six days in the week are occupied in labour, and the seventh, be spent in the manner just mentioned, what time is left for the worship of God, and the preparation of our souls for eternity? Men may also deceive themselves in determining the nature of any work, which they may feel tempted to perform on the Sabbath. They may conceive the work to be one of necessity, and therefore justifiable on that day. And here I will admit that difficulties may sometimes occur, which may perplex the minds of those who possess the most upright intentions. It is necessary in such a case, that the matter be impartially considered. If the work be one which was foreseen, and could by a little management and extra exertion, have been performed upon a week day, it is not a work of necessity. And it is consequently a sin to perform it. Again, if the prospect of gain induces us to do that on the Sabbath, which we would otherwise omit, the work is not one of necessity. It would be endless to enumerate every possible instance, whereby a breach of this sacred day would be committed. The best advice that I can give in all such cases, is, that the matter be referred to God. And that the individual should make up his mind, to act, precisely as he should wish to have acted, when obliged to give an account of his works, at the great day of final retribution.

I now proceed to the second head of my discourse, which is to show how the Sabbath should be observed. This is by far the most pleasing topic to dwell upon. For, although it is a necessary duty in the Minister of Christ, it is nevertheless a painful one, to exhibit the various forms in which sin exercises its power upon our fallen race; and the awful punishment which inevitably awaits those who obey its dictates. The most prominent parts of the observance of this day, consist in the sincere and solemn worship of the Almighty, the