

IV. THE JEWISH SABBATH NOW COMES FOR
CONSIDERATION.

It is thought that a period of about twenty-five hundred years had elapsed between the establishment of the Sabbath, as related in Genesis, and the time of the notice to the Israelites of a Sabbath, mentioned in the Book of Exodus 16: 23, during which period we find no mention of a Sabbath in Scripture; although, as we have shown above, traces of its establishment had been found among most ancient nations. In the above chapter of Exodus, we read that the Lord said unto Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

There are here certain interesting questions to be solved, if it be possible to find satisfactory answers.

1st. From what day of the week, or point of time, did God direct Moses to count the six days? We submit that if Moses had followed the Egyptian counting or marking of time, the Israelites would not have exhibited the ignorance they manifested of the computation of time, which they plainly showed. We are told that on the seventh day after the first fall of the manna was their Sabbath.

This was a surprise to them, as an arbitrary appoint-