

obstacle to its being enacted as a civil duty. With few exceptions, the same may be said of the whole catalogue of duties specified in the Ten Commandments. Those of them which are purely and exclusively religious in their nature cannot be made civil duties, but all the rest of them may be, in so far as they involve conduct as distinguished from mere operations of mind or states of the affections. Opinions may differ, and they really do differ, as to whether abstaining from labor on Sunday is a religious duty; but whether it is or is not, it is certain that the Legislature of Georgia has prescribed it as a civil duty. The statute can fairly and rationally be treated as a legitimate police regulation; and thus treated, it is a valid law. There is a wide difference between keeping a day holy as a religious observance and merely forbearing to labor on that day, in one's ordinary vocation or business pursuit.

How to Spend a Profitable Holiday.

It cannot be denied that, while the summer is the season most suitable for recreation, there is more or less declension in spiritual life and work. Take the large cities' churches, for example. Some are closed for a month, Sabbath-schools cease in many cases for two months, great numbers of families leave their beautiful homes, and spend weeks and months in hotels and cottages, by lakeside, riverside, and seaside, removing in many cases from church services altogether. Many are found on the Sabbath sailing and rowing, paddling and wheeling, walking and lounging, making it an ordinary holiday. It would seem as if many looked upon the summer as a time for recreation both from occupation and from religion. Then there is the disorganization of church finances. Members of congregations forget to give their contributions to the treasurer before leaving for their summer resorts, and in consequence this officer is embarrassed, and the balance is not made up till late in the year. It cannot be denied, moreover, that much is added to the expense of living by this summer migration. Another feature, and a sad one, of this desertion of homes is the separation of the family and its head. Summer is usually the busiest season of the year with business men owing to the annual vacation that is given to their employees, and they must be in the city. They must get their meals in clubs or restaurants and spend the nights in the deserted home, except perhaps on the Sabbath, when they may join the family, unless it be too far away. And thus the religious life of our people, of individuals, families and churches is in danger of being weakened. We do not write this in condemnation of summer recreation, in which we most heartily believe in some form, but we desire in all faithfulness to call attention to what we believe to be a spiritual peril in the hope that it may be averted.

Now, let us suggest a thought or two which should be useful and helpful to many. 1. Let families who leave the city go where the head of the house can join them every night. Then the family need not be broken up, nor its head left without the comforts of home life during the summer. 2. Let those who intend being absent from their church make their contributions to it as regularly as when at home, either by giving beforehand, or weekly. This is serving the Lord as well as ourselves. 3. Then sanctify all recreations, observe family worship regularly, have Sabbath-school in your own house, or room, if there be no hall, or church, and have plenty of good books around. Should there be no church service, let a regular service be conducted in one's house with the family. Little children especially love such a service. 4. Remember the church at

home. Pray for those who are there, in church and Sabbath-school, and for the man of God who preaches to them. Let there be no break in our church work. Let us pray and look for additions to the church week by week, of such as shall be saved. Sin abounds; let us pray that grace may much more abound, and that the preaching of the Gospel may be exceedingly fruitful to the glory of God. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering . . . not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching."

What The Bicyclist Misses.

It is to be hoped that the good old custom of pedestrianism will not fall into disuse, says a writer in the *Transcript*. The bicycle rider has perhaps gained more than he has lost, but he has lost something, and that by no means unimportant. It is a great economic gain to minimize time and distance to so considerable an extent. The enjoyment in this way of the air and exercise and the poetry and exhilaration of easy and rapid motion is delightful, but this sensuous satisfaction is likely to be obtained at the expense of mental stimulus. The bicycle rider cannot tarry to study the tint or texture of the flowers or breathe their fragrance. He cannot listen to the songs of birds or the music of the brooks. His course is over the world's conventional tracks, and though nature speaks in countless tongues, he hardly catches so much as the echo of any of them. The woodlands and the byways where lurk the choicest manifestations of beauty he cannot visit. On his nightly runs he sees only the shining road before him reflecting the light of the moon and stars, but he cannot lift his eyes to the Milky Way, or view the still more glorious tenantry of the heavens.

It does not seem a violent hypothesis that this condition of things must tend to weaken those habits of observation upon which so much that is great in art, science, and literature depends, and that this will be deplorably apparent in the next generation unless some counter interest can be developed. It is a serious question whether a White of Selbourne, a Burroughs, or a Thoreau could have been produced on an exclusive bicycle basis. Their natural tendencies might have overcome all obstacles of environment, but observation is a plant that starts early and grows by what it feeds upon, and amid surroundings and influences like the present they might not so easily have been inducted into those delightful and congenial labors that have so sweetened the literature of our time.

The bicycle interest has come to stay and to grow until some more potent attraction shall supplant it. But to balance it and prevent social one-sidedness and mental deterioration, we need the extension and multiplication of such organizations as the Appalachian Club, which will soon start upon an outing, not to annihilate space, but to become acquainted with the wealth which occupies it, and in acquiring health and strength also to acquire information. It is something to know the world of men, but it is infinitely more important to know intimately the world of nature, for upon that knowledge rests all that man ever has accomplished or ever can accomplish. The fastest scorcher may get to the end of life's journey the soonest, but he will not arrive with as much baggage as the more moderate and observant wayfarer.