

Father which seeth in secret. They could meditate on His holy Word; they could join in pious converse, or gather the children together to instruct them in the way of the Lord, but they were deprived of the blessing of *united* prayer; and those who served Him *not* used to wander away after the desire of their own hearts and their own eyes on that holy day. The children and young men were allowed, unrestrained and unreprieved, to 'do their own ways,' and 'find their own pleasure,' and 'speak their own words,'—too often words of filthiness and foolish talking,—or the day of rest was turned into a day of labour on any slight pretext; and this precious memorial of the rest and freedom in paradise, which was lost in the first Adam, and we hope to regain in the second, was willingly, even greedily, bartered and given up to Satan for a mess of pottage or a thing of nought. And when that day was over, and each went forth, morning by morning, to his work, how many bowed the knee to the God and Father of all at their rising up, and asked one blessing or offered a single prayer to Him? Your own hearts will answer.

"And what was the consequence? Through the livelong summer day, through the wintry storm, on the tossing wave, on the shore, in the stage, and in the woods, that gracious God was hour by hour provoked, and His Holy Spirit grieved by uncontrolled tempers, and bitter, evil words, from Christians who were living without