

## II

as the watchman of the Lord, I lift my voice against this abominable sin, and I admonish you of its folly and its danger: Oh! if there is any one thing, which above every other pollutes the Sabbath, it is that against which I am now warning you; and I can compare it to nothing better than the profaneness of Esau, who basely bartered away his birthright for a mess of pottage; and they who continue to transgress, will never inherit the blessing. Let no man deceive himself with the hope that such a sin will ever pass unpunished. Could I lift up the curtain that at present hides from our eyes the eternal world, and shew the misery of condemned and out-cast spirits, there would be testimony sufficient to alarm the boldest Sabbath-breaker in the world; but, this is not permitted; and God has given us a more gracious monitor, and by his holy word exhorts us to take heed, lest we also come to that place of torment!

All true Christians lament the prevalence of this evil; and even among those who actually commit it, there are not many to be found, who do not acknowledge the thing to be wrong; but, then they plead the temptation. And is temptation to be an *excuse* and an *argument* for the commission of crime? If there were no temptation there would be no sin—if there were no temptation there would be no blessedness for the man "*who keepeth his hand from doing any evil.*"—And what are these temptations?—The fear of ridicule, and the fear of loss. As to the first of these, it is the predestinated fate of "*all who will live godly in Christ Jesus,*" and he is no true christian who cannot endure it: Reproach we must expect, and reproach we may glory in, since it has ever been the lot of those who will not "*follow the multitude to do evil;*" and what is more, the lot of our contradicted, mocked, and martyred Savior, who in the prospect of such temptation has given his disciples this kind and awful warning,—"*and*