

to sweep away the whole of it, substituting, however, in its place a law for the universal cessation of labour on the first day of the week, for reasons competent to a civil legislature to decide on (that day being chosen in preference to any other, in consequence of its being already, on religious grounds, devoted to rest by so large a portion of the community,) and a law for protecting religious worship, by whomsoever performed, from disturbance at whatever time it may be observed.

#### PROVING RELIGION.

O, Christian, instead of disputing, let me tell thee how to prove your religion. Live it out! live it out! Give the external as well as the internal evidence; give the external evidence of your own life. You are sick; there is your neighbour, who laughs at religion; let him come into your house. When he was sick he said, "O, send for the doctor;" and there he was fretting, and fuming and whining, and making all manner of noises. When you are sick, send for him; tell him that you are resigned to the Lord's will; that you will kiss the chastening rod; that you will take the cup and drink it, because your Father gives it. You need not make a boast of this, or it will lose all its power; but do it because you cannot help doing it. Your neighbour will say, "There is something in that." And when you come to the borders of the grave—he was there once, and you heard how he shrieked, and how frightened he was—give him your hand, and say to him, "Ah! I have a Christ that will do to die by; I have a religion that will make me sing in the night." Let him hear how you can sing, "Victory, victory, victory!" through him that loved you. I tell you, we may preach fifty thousand sermons to prove the gospel, but we shall not prove it half so well as you will through singing in the night. Keep a cheerful frame; keep a happy heart; keep a contented spirit; keep your eye up, and your heart aloft, and you will prove Christianity better than all the Butlers, and all the wise men that ever lived. Give them the analogy of a holy life, and then you will prove religion to them; give them the evidence of internal piety, developed externally, and you will give the best possible proof of Christianity. Try and sing songs in the night; for they are so rare, that if thou can'st sing them, thou wilt honour thy God.—*Spurgeon.*

#### THE BIBLE FOR POOR AND RICH.

I must protest against a phrase which is now becoming a common one with reference to the Word of God—we hear it constantly said that the Bible is essentially the poor man's book. It is true that it is the poor man's book, but it is essentially the rich man's also—it is a book necessary to every human being, from the Queen on the throne down to the naked child in our streets. It is essentially the poor man's book, because it affords him comfort and knowledge, because it lifts him above the storms and distresses of life, and raises him out of the mire and sets him amongst princes, if not here, at least in the world to come. But it is also the rich man's book, and, if you doubted it before, you will not do so no longer, when you see the state of things developing itself in the metropolis, and the enormous development of sin elsewhere. When day by day you find gigantic frauds perpetrated by the wealthier portion of the community, will you tell me it is not the rich man's book, one which could furnish that guide to his conscience which no human care or superintendence can afford, inculcating that eternal principle that God is present with him always, and knows whether he peculates to the extent of a million or only of one farthing. Nothing but the full force of this great conviction, in the spirit of traffic and money-making which now prevails, can prevent those gigantic frauds, and therefore the rich man should lay seriously to heart that this is his book, and that whatever is contained in it is for his good both here and hereafter.—*Earl of Shaftesbury.*

#### RIGHTS OF COLOURED MEN IN MAINE.

The Supreme Court of Maine has decided that free coloured persons of African descent are authorized, upon complying with the same laws that qualify white men, under the provisions of the Constitution of the State, to be electors for Governor, Senators, and Representatives. The decision of the Court was rendered in compliance with a joint resolution of the Legislature passed last winter. The decision is in direct conflict with the opinion of the United States Court in the Dred Scott case.—*American Paper.*—[Is the Union breaking up, as the *Westminster Review* alleges?]