

persecuting spirit, that would, if it durst, institute an inquisition in the Protestant church, and re-ordain the writ *de hæretico comburendo*. But I contend, and that on scriptural grounds alone, that you are right, and he is totally wrong. I deny that there is any divine authority that can be produced for prohibiting or condemning any species of amusement or recreation that is otherwise innocent and lawful, from being resorted to on Sunday. I would wish Philo to produce a single text either in the Old or New Testament that can bear such an interpretation. The Sabbath is, by the appointment of God, a cessation from labour and from business, but not from pleasure or recreation. Rest implies recreation, and in none of the ordinances emanating from divine authority do we find any intimation that recreation is unacceptable to Heaven; on the contrary, rejoicings, with dancing, and singing, always accompanied the celebration of the Jewish festivals. It is not gloomy inactivity, nor even unabated and zealous worship alone, that God requires from man on the day of his rest, the day he has hallowed, and set apart from labour; and all those innocent amusements that can renovate the health and spirits of mankind for the labours of the ensuing week, are not only laudable, but, in my opinion, they may be even said to be a religious duty to be performed. In all the passages in which the observance of the Jewish Sabbath is ordained, Exodus xx, 8—11, xxxi, 14—17, Leviticus xxiii, 3, Deuteronomy,

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the observance of the Sabbath as a *day of rest*, being ordained by one of the positive commands of God in the decalogue, it ought to be considered as an *essential* and not a *ceremonial* of the christian religion, to abstain from all unnecessary labour on that day. There is no doubt in my mind that going to church in a carriage drawn by horses, excepting in cases of infirmity of body, is a heinous infringement of the fourth commandment, while dancing, music, playing at cards, or any other diversion that is in itself innocent, are none at all.

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