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THE PERMANENCE OF THE SABBATH IN RELATION TO THE MOSAIC LAW AND THE GOSPEL ECONOMY.*

IT seems undeniable that in Christian lands the general regard for the sanctity of the Lord's day is, in some way, linked with the popular conviction that the fourth commandment is binding; and it appears very certain that any weakening of this belief would necessarily tend to undermine the sense of obligation to remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. We propose to examine some of the grounds which lead us to believe that this general opinion is well founded, and to show why we regard the Sabbath law, embodied in the fourth commandment, as binding under the gospel.

In this connection, two outstanding facts arrest attention, viz.: (1) All Christendom avowedly recognizes the fourth commandment as still binding; and (2) all Christendom, with trifling exceptions, observes its day of sacred rest on the first day of the week. That the entire Christian world, east and west, openly acknowledges the fourth commandment is evident from the treatment accorded to the Decalogue as a whole. It is constantly held forth and taught as a summary of all the duties enjoined by the divine law. No Christian church has ever eliminated any one of its precepts, or taught its people to think of all

*Opening address at Knox College, October, 1893; delivered by Professor W. McLaren, D.D.