

work went on for nine days consecutively ; but, when this became evidently too much for the strength, many observed Sunday also, at least as far as the police would allow : hence resulted next, too much idleness, and thus we always blunder between two extremes when we depart from the regular middle way ordained for us. But if this be the case when merely rational and worldly considerations are taken into account, how much is its importance altered when seen in a religious point of view, which makes the idea as well as the enjoyment of the day a source of spiritual peace and real consolation ! Besides this, the greater festivals are connected with such remarkable circumstances, that they from thence gain an especial sanctity. It is doubtless the most proper celebration of these days to read the history of the events which they commemorate in the Bible itself, and all four Evangelists, as you tell me has been your practice for many years.

THE GOSPEL NARRATIVES.

In the Evangelists, the general accordance of the narratives is as worthy of notice as the small differences which occur. This accordance is a pledge of their sincerity and truth, and all bear the stamp of the spirit in which all these immediate witnesses wrote, who saw and accompanied Christ himself. But this spirit, although it indeed was a spirit of unity which animated all, did not at all hinder the peculiar character of every narrator from developing itself in all its genuineness and beauty. Indeed, whoever is accustomed to read the Evangelists frequently, cannot easily mistake from which of them a passage is taken, if it but contain any thing which allows character to show itself. I think I can perceive from your