

listening to bands, or in social enjoyment. If this opinion were confined to the readers of that particular magazine it might be allowed to pass without further notice ; but we fear it finds favour with many outside that literary circle. If such be a rational Sunday, there are considerable numbers who can pride themselves on being rational at least one day in the week. But is this a rational Sunday ? It would be if man had no higher faculties than the æsthetic and the cognitive, and no nobler aim than amusement. But if he has other faculties and other aims greater than these, it is not rational so to use his hours that the less important usurps the time of the more important. It may, therefore, be a rational Sunday for the atheist or the rationalist, but certainly it is not for the Christian, who believes that he has a moral faculty, a very close relationship to God, and a life that will not end with time. That these are very serious beliefs cannot be denied, and it is equally without controversy that they demand at least as earnest consideration as the contents of a museum, however interesting these may be. Christianity will refine even more than nice pictures. We yield to none in our admiration of those things, and would do our very utmost to foster a love for them at the proper time, but Sunday is not the proper time, and for the very simple reason that they steal from us most of the very little time at our disposal for the thoughts of quiet hours. If the fourth Commandment had never been heard of, this would remain equally true, and the pause on the pearl of days be equally a necessity for immortal beings. It may be said that we need not go to any of these places unless it is our wish. That is true, but there are many who are not earnest about themselves, and who will go to amusements if such be offered them, but who would probably have remained at home had there not been any such temptation. It is chiefly in the interest of those who are on borders of Christian thoroughness that we write ; and we say, nothing is rational that mars or hinders the development of the highest reason.

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