

Sabbath Lesson.

March 5th, 1865.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT.

Exod. xx. 4-6.

We are taught in this commandment.

1. That God hath appointed certain religious ordinances to be observed in his worship. Lev. xviii. 5.
2. That we are required to accept of and esteem the worship and ordinances of God. Ps. cxix. 103.
3. That we are required to observe God's worship and ordinances. Matt. xxviii. 20.
4. That we are required to keep God's worship and ordinances pure and entire. Deut. xii. 32.
5. That we are forbidden to worship God by images. Deut. iv. 15, 16.
6. That we are forbidden to worship God in any way not appointed in his word. Deut. 4. 2.

(See further illustration of this commandment in article "Second Commandment," published in this paper. Page 104.)

DO SOMETHING.

Immortal souls are in danger! Souls for whom Christ bled and died, for whom angels gaze in pity, and for whom "God waits to be gracious." They do not or cannot realize their peril, but madly plunge on.

Can nothing be done for sinners? Much can be done—everything can be done, and by you. You are permitted to approach a fellow-mortal, face to face, pray with him, weep over him, and point him to Calvary.

"Ah, but I have no talent for the work," you exclaim.

"No talent!" Do you not have sufficient talent to transact business, provide for your family, buy, sell, labour, in fine, to perform any of the multifarious duties of life?

But you add, I am naturally timid and retiring."

"Timid and retiring!" Were your neighbour's house in flames, and the lives of his wife and little ones threatened, would you speak of your "timidity?" Rather, would you not rush into the burning structure like a hero, and rescue them if possible? If you would do all this for their bodies, ought you not to do infinitely more for their souls?

"But the majority of people know religion is valuable, already," you reply.

So a good name is "valuable," yet thousands forfeit it by the commission of crime. All understand the value of wealth, yet many squander it and become beggars. Nothing is more desirable than health, yet nothing is more recklessly thrown away through neglect and imprudence.

"Bibles and churches are accessible to all," you reply, in conclusion.

So are dram-shops, theatres, gambling-houses, race-courses, and dens of infamy. In fact they outnumber churches more than twenty to one. Unite this with the fact that "men love darkness rather than light," and the demand for earnest, persevering, personal effort will be obvious. Men do not require urging to do wrong, but they do require a vast amount of urging to do right.

God had a work for us to do, else we had never had existence. It is a sublime belief, that nothing is created in vain. From the blade of grass beneath our feet, up to the uncounted worlds that roll in space, all exist for a purpose. Nothing stands still, nothing ceases to grow. The acorn which we tossed carelessly aside when a boy, has become a giant oak.

If all nature labours and grows, shall not the Christian? If nature performs the Maker's will, why not the child of God?

Arouse thee, O Christian! A few more days of toil and the crown and harp will be thine. For "he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." But ever remember that "*he that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*"

"THE ROSE OF SHARON."

My Saviour condescendingly says of himself, "I am the rose of Sharon," Cant. ii. 1. Our natural pleasures come to us through the medium of the senses. The exquisite delights which the soul that is betrothed to Christ derives from him, are constantly spoken of in language supplied by those senses. The sight, the hearing, the touch, the taste, and the smell, afford images to set forth the excellency of my Saviour, 1 John i. 1; Cant. ii. 1-3. Sharon was a region of the Holy Land, proverbial for its richness and fertility; and the luxuriance of its roses was much celebrated. Happy was the enlightened mind which saw in every rose of that blooming land, a visible type of the promised Redeemer!

The flower of loveliest hue and sweetest fragrance is a most apt emblem of my Saviour. Let it always remind me of him, and