

responsibility, so it also confers a certain individuality of character ; every one stands alone in the sight of God, and of every one his Omniscience takes particular cognizance. None can discharge these duties for another. The responsibility is individual, and every man must render an account for himself. The neglect of these duties brings guilt, and guilt brings punishment ; the performance of them is pleasing to God, and it may be the means of obtaining many valuable blessings.

Now this individual responsibility evidently suggests the propriety and necessity of having a certain portion of time set apart for religious duties. The fact that man is endowed with moral powers, shews that the whole of his time is not to be occupied with the concerns of the present life, but that a certain portion of it must be devoted to the worship of God. For private duties every one should select for himself a retired spot and a convenient time ; for family duties, the head of the household should fix the time ; for public worship, the nature of society requires that certain fixed times should be determined when labour and business shall be suspended and religious duties performed. Because,

1. The common intercourse of society renders such an arrangement necessary.

When a whole community give their attention to religious duties at the same time, these duties cannot interfere with the other business of life. If there were no such arrangement as this, numerous interruptions would occur to every one, which might lead to the neglect of them. The worldly interests of every man are closely interwoven with those of others ; the prosperity of one man's business often depends upon the time of another ; how much injury might result to the employer, if the person employed should select for religious services the very time which his master's business most urgently required his attendance ! How great would be the inconvenience to those living in the country, if, on coming into the city, they should find the merchants so employed as to exclude business for the day. Order is required to regulate the intercourse of society, as well as the affairs of a family, and every difficulty and inconvenience is obviated by allotting a certain portion of time for the exercises of religion ; thus an opportunity is furnished to all, and none can plead excuse.

2. The simultaneous performance of certain acts arises out of the nature of society. This principle is frequently exemplified : for instance, if the inhabitants of a city wish to testify their loyalty to their Sovereign on some particular occasion, every inhabitant does not draw up his congratulatory address and present it in person, but they meet together in classes or by corporations, and appoint proper persons to draw up their address and present it in their name. So, when men have duties to perform to the Sovereign of the universe, it must be quite natural for them, to meet together according as circumstances may permit ; and unite in paying their tribute of homage to Him. Since the continued goodness of God which confers many benefits and prevents many evils lays mankind under in-