

more advanced in life feel deeply the breaking up of all the endeared associations that had grown up around you during many years. You experience for a time the loss of many of the conveniences that are found in lands that have been long under the culturing hand of man; but we congratulate you upon the fact that the laborious preparation which will secure for yourselves and children all the advantages of a high and ripe civilization needs be but short. We warn you of the danger, during even this brief period under new burdens, of suffering a decline of interest in spiritual things. The difficulties of attending public worship, the class and prayer meetings, may lead to their neglect, with the thought at the time that it will be only temporary; but no habit grows in strength more rapidly than neglect, and none is perhaps more subtle and beguiling, because it is free from any positive visible harm, but in the end it means spiritual and eternal death.

We cannot too earnestly dwell upon the importance of a scrupulous observance of the Sabbath day. There is an active tendency abroad to treat the restrictions laid around this day as though they were simply the inventions of a priestly hierarchy, and that both manliness and liberty required an active protest against them. Let us beware of such a spirit, remembering that it is but one of the many forms in which worldliness and sin resists true religion. If the Sabbath is allowed to degenerate into a mere holiday, among any people, with that people religion will be but a name and its form even will scarcely be recognized. This is not saying that the Sabbath is all there is of christianity, but rather that true christianity—vital religion—always preserves the Sabbath in all its sacredness. Let us remember that no priestly hierarchy, but God the Almighty has said, "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord honorable, and shall honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words, then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."