

regarded as the Lord's Day. Visiting was unheard of, nor was the fourth commandment pronounced out-of-date. In their estimation, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" imposed a moral obligation and meant precisely what it said. Would that this righteous opinion prevailed everywhere !

Nowadays many sneer at the strict observance of the Sabbath in former times. They deride Puritan narrowness, boast of their own broad views, and affect pity for "bigots tied down to the bible and catechism" under rigid notions that make Sunday a horror. What are the facts? We were taught to think Sunday the best day of the seven. Far from proving wearisome, it was always restful and edifying. Everything was prepared on Saturday, that the least work possible should be done on the Sabbath. Instead of lying in bed later than on week days we arose an hour earlier, to learn a chapter in the bible before breakfast. Sickness alone prevented us from attending both forenoon and afternoon services. Wolves, bad roads and long distances rendered evening service impracticable. A flake or two of snow, a drop of rain, a black cloud, a speck of dust, a little extra heat or a touch of cold would not keep us from church. Fair-weather Christianity, sure to shrink in the wash, had no place in the Beckwith brand of piety. We got our bibles in the evening to compare passages, repeat what we had committed and answer questions father would ask. Usually a half-hour's singing preceded family worship, which fitly closed the hallowed day. These delightful exercises full of sweetness and profit, it is a pleasure to recall. Hallowed Sabbaths laid the foundation of many a sterling character, equipped thoroughly for usefulness here and felicity hereafter. How much they miss who vainly seek in Sunday newspapers, Sunday amusements and trashy literature the solid satisfaction of a well-spent Sabbath !

In this connection a reference to the first Gælic sermon preached at Perth will be appropriate. Rev. William Bell, the first settled minister in Lanark county, came to Perth in 1817. A dozen log-houses in the woods, occupied