

Israelites, the observance of the Sabbath was so important a part of religion, that it pleased the Almighty to guard it with the strictest prohibitions; and in the Book of Numbers† we have the account of a signal judgment inflicted upon an individual for an infringement upon it—the abuse which that man offered to the Sabbath, was far from the most enormous, but the punishment was death! It is true, indeed, that *we* are not required to observe a Jewish Sabbath: but, is the day of rest less important to christians now that it has received the sanction of our Blessed Lord and Savior, who by his example has taught us to keep the Sabbath holy, and has fully instructed us that the only works permitted upon that day, are works of mercy and necessity? To the devout Jew, the observance of the Sabbath was to commemorate the work of creation, and his deliverance from Egyptian bondage; and he rested from his labor and glorified God who had bestowed such mercies upon man: and have not christians a loftier motive to keep holy the Lord's day, now, that we thereby commemorate the resurrection of our Savior from the dead, and the redemption of the world from the bondage of sin and death and hell? "*The Sabbath was made for man;*"—it is alike necessary to his present peace and his future happiness, and without it he would be a miserable slave and altogether corrupt: It is necessary to the very existence of pure religion; and whenever it is neglected the people become brutish in knowledge and abominable in their lives: only set aside the Lord's day, and you put out the lamp of truth, and destroy the shewbread of eternal life:—Take away from christians the respect due to Sunday, and you relax at once the fidelity and the hope of man—you remove from him the greatest blessing that sweetens the cup of human life, and expose him to the dreadful

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† Numbers, xv. 35. 36.