

become mere trifling and foolish quibbling. One might as appropriately criticize from the scientific standpoint the glorious visions of Ezekiel or the splendid imagery of the Apocalypse.

But what, it may be asked, becomes, in that case, of the authority of the Sabbath which is here represented as based upon the divine example of rest after six days' labor? The question of the Sabbath is too large a one to be discussed in the closing paragraph of this article, but the bearing of this mode of interpretation on that invaluable institution has not been overlooked. The question of the ground on which the authority for it must be based is not easy on any view of this chapter, and does not press in any special way against the one here adopted. Whatever method of explanation is adopted, even if it be the most literal, the sanction which is here suggested is rather of the nature of a popular sentimental argument than one that can be put in logical form with success. There are good reasons for the observance of the Sabbath rest. All experience goes to show that it is necessary, both for man and laboring beast, in order that they may remain at their best. It is therefore a law written in nature by the finger of God himself. In fact, we might put it more strongly, and say that it thus becomes a law of God's own action, not at the beginning of the world only, but throughout all time; for every law of nature is a law by which God has so far bound himself. And in that natural necessity, as a rule of the divine procedure, the real reason for the institution must always be found by the philosophic mind. But it could not be expected that the popular mind, especially in early days, should comprehend this consideration and feel its force. The average mind cannot be made to do so even yet. The Mosaic reason is sufficiently in harmony with this reason to leave room for it whenever the world is ready to take it in, but it puts the matter in a way which has been practically far more effective in securing its observance. We Christians to-day observe the first day of the