

watch for instance, understands best the law of its well-being and is best fitted to lay down and enforce that law. Society is a machine, a most complicated mechanism, a creation by the great Artificer, and he alone is fitted to lay down the laws of its well-being, and, moreover, to enforce these laws in his own way, or by the power of Governments, which are his vice-gerents on earth. One of these laws is rest one day in seven, and if individual or national life is to be conserved, and no one doubts that; and if Government exists to conserve individual and national life, and no one doubts that; then Government must enact laws for the observance of the Lord's Day and must enforce these laws, as it does its other laws, by penal provisions. But we are told we cannot make people moral by act of Parliament, and men and newspapers grow didactic and advise us not to seek legislation in these matters, but seek to accomplish our very praiseworthy ends by moral suasion. This species of reasoning, if followed out to a legitimate conclusion, would stop the course of further legislation on many subjects. The answer to it is so manifest that I do not think any man who has understanding enough to carry him past the first proposition of Euclid can honestly believe that there is anything in it. True we cannot make men moral by act of Parliament, but we can make it hard for them to do wrong and easy for them to do right by act of Parliament. No one objects to laws directed and enforced by severe penalties against the man who steals from his fellowman a dollar or who strikes him on the face. Sabbath day rest is a God-given right; it is a property which is every man's and of which no man should be deprived even as no man can be deprived of the free uses of air and light. It is a franchise, a property far dearer than such as relates to his physical welfare only, because it not only compasses his physical well-being, but it is a property the free user thereof projects its influence past the confines of time and brings with it a benediction for eternity; a property therefore more valuable by far than money and lands and goods and therefore one which it is the bounden duty of Government to preserve for the individual and for the collocation of individuals called the nation, and the bounden duty of Government to see that no man or combination of men, shall be permitted to reach forth their hands and reft it