

THE SABBATH.



THE Sabbath was made for man. It is the day of rest, which has often been called "the best of all the seven." It is a merciful arrangement of Jehovah, that one-seventh portion of our time is to be spent in rest. How soon would the strongest become weak, if there were no rest days, so that exhausted nature could recuperate! No matter what may be the kind of labor a man may follow, he must have sufficient time to rest, or his energies will soon be worn out. Facts could be given from a variety of sources to prove the truth of this statement.

The performance of Christian duty always brings its own reward, and the neglect invariably secures the penalty. This may not in every instance be apparent to the casual observer, but it is as certain as effect follows cause. To keep holy the Sabbath is a divine command. (See Gen. ii. 1-3.) Men who violate this command will be sure to suffer. Dr. Talmage says, "The fact is, Sabbath-made ropes will break, and Sabbath-made shoes will leak, and Sabbath-made coats will rip, and Sabbath-made muskets will miss fire, and Sabbath occupations will be blasted."

As with individuals, so with nations. Those nations which reverence the Sabbath most, will, other things been equal, enjoy the most prosperity; whereas those which neglect and violate Sabbath laws, will sooner or later come to ruin: even a partial acquaintance with the history of nations will corroborate this statement.

The age in which we live is remarkable for its testing character. Everything and every institution is now passing through the crucible, hence we find that the Sabbath law is being tested in an almost endless variety of ways, and by reason of the contentions that are now going on, we fear that many retain loose ideas respecting the sanctity of the holy day. Business is pursued so earnestly, and the competition in all branches is so keen, that the Sabbath is often encroached upon to meet the demands of trade and commerce. The number of men employed on our railways and canals, even in Canada, is truly frightful; while the plea offered is, that such arrangements are absolutely necessary.

There is danger to be apprehended by our country lest, while railways are becoming more extensive every year, there will be an increasing amount of Sabbath desecration, as the number of employes will necessarily increase, and large dividends will be considered more necessary than the observance of the Sabbath law. There is one form of Sabbath desecration to which we would especially call the attention of the readers of "Earnest Christianity"—*Sabbath Visiting*. City ministers are often pained to observe empty pews at the Sabbath morning service, because the occupants are gone into the country to spend the day. Ministers in the country are also often pained by some of their people assigning as a reason for their non-attendance at Church—a friend or friends came from the city, and we could not leave them.