

It is matter of wonder why the Fourth Commandment was ever subjected to a plebiscite. A member of the City Council, objecting, well remarked that he would as soon think of proposing any other.

The truth is, it has peculiar claims. It was instituted at Creation. It was long the only Religion—it is relatively to the others as cause to effect. A due observance of it produces in us a spiritual power for discharging all duties. A general observance ensures a peaceful community, and tends to reduce the enormous expenses of our criminal laws.

It has been subjected to a plebiscite, and it becomes the solemn duty of every man to consider well his obligations before voting, especially as, since writing the foregoing remarks, a judgment of one of our Courts has declared that the game of golf is not an infraction of our law.

Nobody can deny that this and many other games afford innocent pleasure, and are very conducive to health. But the question is are they included in the term "holy"? If not they are a violation of the Fourth Commandment. Our obedience is not a matter of option but of duty. A trivial and regardless answer to the question is unworthy a man of thought.

We are not considering a law of man, but a law of God, and a man should act accordingly, with an advised consciousness of his solemn responsibility. Who can calculate the amount of evil to which his vote, heedlessly given, may contribute in perpetuating a desecration of this Commandment, and for which he will hereafter be accountable? If he shrinks through fear of a future judgment from doing a wrong to his neighbour, how much so should he do so from a wrong to his Judge? In opposition to any suggestion to the contrary, let him remember Christ's declaration in His Sermon on the Mount, "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least Commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven."

A gentleman of thought has said "the Church is on its trial," a position demanding its friends not only to record their own votes in defence, but to use their best endeavours to induce others to do so.

Where are its consecrated guardians?

Is there no modern Isaiah to raise his voice authoritatively, beyond his own immediate charge?