

Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.—ISAIAH 56. 2.

IT is the recorded declaration of a wise and pious English Judge,* that he always found the whole week influenced by the manner in which he spent the Lord's day; and there can be no doubt, it was one of the merciful purposes for which the first day of the week was hallowed, that the heart might be sanctified, and the hands strengthened for the duties of all the rest: the experience of devout men in every age would furnish us with the same witness, if such witness be necessary to confirm that which has been spoken by the Divine Judge of all the earth, and who by the mouth of his prophet has pronounced the blessedness of man, who "keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it."

It is the full conviction of my heart that much of the misery and wickedness in this land, springs from an abuse of the Lord's day; and as it continues to be a besetting and a crying sin, it is binding upon me, as your Pastor, and as the messenger of the Lord, to shew you the evil and to premonish you of the danger. To this end let us consider,

The duty and the advantage of rightly observing the Christian Sabbath.

In addressing myself to a christian people, it ought not to be necessary to use many words to prove it a duty to "*keep holy the Sabbath day*," for there are few things in religion upon which christians so

* Sir Matthew Hale.