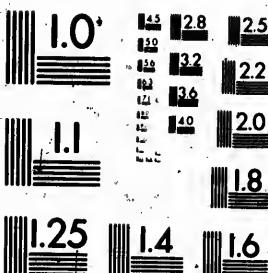


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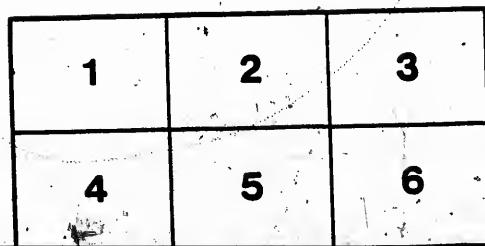
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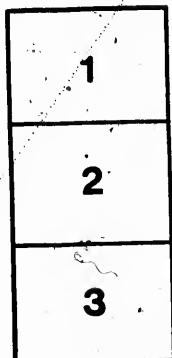
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REV

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MEMO SHEET OF
MR. W. T. WISHART'S LETTERS.

Mr. W. T. Wishart's letters, which were written in 1852, are now published in a volume entitled "Wishart's Letters." In this volume, Mr. Wishart describes his experiences during a tour through the United States and Canada. He writes about his observations of the natural world, including animals, plants, and geological features. He also discusses his thoughts on various topics such as politics, religion, and education. The letters provide a unique insight into the life and times of a man who was one of the first to travel extensively in North America.

THE SABBATH.

The Sabbath is a day of rest and worship observed by many Christians. It is a day set aside for spiritual refreshment and for the performance of religious duties. The Sabbath is observed on Sunday in most Protestant denominations, while it is observed on Saturday in some other Christian groups and in all Jewish congregations. The Sabbath is a day of rest from work and labor, and it is a day of quiet contemplation and prayer. It is a day of thanksgiving for the blessings of God and a day of preparation for the coming week.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM

HALIFAX,
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1852.

REVII

TO THE READER.

The following "review" of a series of letters, over the signature W. T. Wishart, impugning the ordinance of the Christian Sabbath, and published in the Saint John Morning News, first appeared in the Halifax "Presbyterian Witness," and the circulation of that valuable journal was not so extensive in that part of the Province of New Brunswick in which the "News" was most extensively read, a few friends of the Truth, regarding the "review" as a most valuable contribution to the cause of religion, as well as a sweeping and triumphant refutation of the erroneous and dangerous doctrines which called it forth, came to the conclusion, to have it republished in Pamphlet form, at their own expense, for free distribution, in order to extend as much as possible its circulation. Satisfied that it will not only prove an antidote to the poison, but also impress the minds of many, who may never have thought closely on the subject, with correct views of the important place which THE LAW as well as THE GOSPEL occupies in the economy of grace. The "review" ministers a severe, withering, but well merited rebuke to the author of the Letters reviewed, in that lofty ironical strain, which proves the writer to be at once master of his subject and his antagonist, and calls up to the mind the caustic rebuke of Elijah to the prophets of Baal, while it lays low the awful tendency of the dogmatism which it combats, closes with its adversary, and wrests from him the weapons with which he has sought to corrupt the truths of Divine Revelation, turning them with destructive effect on his own head.

REVIEW OF MR. W. T. WISHART'S LETTER ON THE SABBATH.

I perceive, by late Nos. of the St. John "Church Witness" and "Morning News" just come to hand, that W. T. Wishart, ex-divine of that city, after years of unsuccessful agitation to induce some person to notice his sublime system of Theology, has at length succeeded in finding a pretext for distinguishing himself as scripture surveyor extraordinary—and "hidden"-truth-excavator general by "switching a surveyor line from Genesis to the end of the Revelations—and marshalling on either side," after having excavated them, those "fractions" of hidden truth which are "not complete in themselves" and which can only be done systematically by such spiritual beings as this Sabbath desecrator—"Matthew Henry and others" having only "fearfully, accidentally, and by fits and starts "fitted together" a few of these fractions the work of excavation requiring a system and survey wholly beyond their fearful and fitful imagination—the glory of marking an epoch in the science of Theology being reserved to immortalize the acute, accomplished, and learned Wishart of the nineteenth century. These "incomplete fractions" this spiritual Geologist intends to fit together, for the purpose of "yielding nutriment to the faithful;" and having done this, he proposes leaving the rest of *divine truth* being the "letter" or "top covering" to "deform and damn human nature" until such time as he abrogates, so awfully so "rapid and so complete" as he intends to do it, that "edifice of devilish masonry (the holy christian Sabbath) that hell plague that has deformed human nature" for ages! One, on hearing such language used to describe the Holy Christian Sabbath, is forcibly reminded of the following utterance of the Spirit of God: "The carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be." "Evil men and seducers wax worse and worse deceiving and being deceived." "O full of all subtlety and all mischief thou child of the devil and enemy of all righteousness, will thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" But, of course, Mr. Wishart cannot "come within the circle" of such Scripture delineation of character, being himself a "minister not of the letter but of the spirit," and having been employed for years in excavating "fractions which are not complete in themselves" and *fitting them together* to furnish nutriment for the faithful regarding such employment as much more "rational" than to "rip, squeeze, and *baste* his poor little toe the Church Witness." The gentlemanly, christian, and logically notice taken by the "Witness" of Wisharts vagaries, is only equalled by its execration in noticing a person whose only reply was a threat to pour out upon his opponent that vituperation and spleen so long pent up by the silent contempt of an insulted community. Had the "Church Witness," before coming into contact with W. T. Wishart, only looked into "Goldsmiths animated nature," he would have found that there is a species of *Fish* which can only be touched with safety by "keeping in the breath," or if touched otherwise must be touched frequently in rapid succession by which means the fish dies all is a electric fluid and becomes quite *harmless*. What can the foolish man's object be in advocating Sabbath desecration? What good could possibly follow, were his wicked scheme consummated? Surely the man *must* be insane; even, laying for granted that all he has said concerning an inward spiritual Sabbath is entirely correct, why do away with a literal Sabbath? In what

Sabbath hinder or prevent this spirituality of mind which the saints in heaven and on earth, if met together in assembly, proclaim with united voice that their spirituality is promoted instead of retarded by the return of the holy Sabbath of man? There are three points in Mr. W.'s letter which he regards as his Sabbath supposed to be revealed in Hebrews, 4th chapter—and Paul's own view, namely: the typical character of the Sabbath—the antitype as he supposes it to be revealed in Hebrews, 4th chapter—and Paul's own view, 2nd Corinthians, iii. chapter and 6th verse, where he says, that God "made us able ministers of the New Testament not of the letter but of the spirit; for the letter killeth but the spirit giveth life." How strong these holds are for his purpose we shall see presently. To throw dust in the eyes of the unwary by perverting those Scriptures which establish and enjoin the observance of the Sabbath, that he may the better fortify those holds, is evidently his drift and object, in the use of those opprobrious nay blasphemous epithets applied to the Lord's day. The following is a specimen, "have not you read in the law how that on the Sabbath day the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are blameless?" His explanation of this portion of Scripture runs thus: "The dwelling in the temple screened the Levite from the literal Sabbath; the dwelling in Christ absolves the believer who is the Levite or priest of the New Testament from the same carnal ordinance." In other words, as dwelling in the temple screened the Levite from a literal Sabbath, and was his warrant for profaning it; so all who are in Christ the true temple, being the priests and Levites of the New Testament, are at perfect liberty to profane the Sabbath with the utmost impunity; nay it is their imperative duty to profane it and thus abrogate for ever that which has "deformed and damned human nature"—in fact that there is no literal Sabbath to be kept by the believer—only rest in Christ—only dwell in him by faith, and he will screen you from all blame while wantonly violating his own holy law which he came not to destroy but to fulfil! Wishart's style of explaining Scripture would seem to say this—"the want of proper knowledge of types, metaphors, and the Greek, has kept Christians in bondage for eighteen centuries—for example in the 118th Psalm there are three metaphors descriptive of Christ, namely a "stone," a "gate," and the "day God hath made;" two of these only the "stone" and "gate" have been discovered up to the present time. Old "obtuse" divines and simple minded Christians all the while regarding the "day God had made" as a perpetual ordinance of divine appointment instead of a Type, but I can see no difference between an ordinance and a type—at all events I am determined by the aid of the Greek types and metaphors to sweep away not only the Sabbath day but also (not being ignorant of the devices of the wicked after effecting this salutary change) the Lord's day. I therefore metamorphose the "day" into "Christ" and thus do away with the "day God hath made" on which his people "rejoice and are glad," that I may find a warrant for teaching my people to "profane" the Christian holy Sabbath, and at the same time to rest in Christ by faith, and thus systematically enjoin upon them to break the fourth precept of the moral law of which the ten commandments are the sun in the moral firmament—and to which all divine truth tend as their common centre—even that law which asserted its holiness by demanding the death of Christ as the only terms on which the transgressor could be freed from the penalty due to its transgression—that law, which David "hid in his heart lest he should offend God"—that law "of the Lord which is perfect converting the soul" (as the instrument, the spirit of God being the agent)—that law, which "is pure enlightening the eyes"—that law by which "his servants are warned and in the keeping of which there is a great reward"—that law, which "brought quickening" to David and which, when revealed in all its spirituality, in all its exceeding length and breadth by the Spirit of God to his soul, forced from him the exclamation "O how lovely is the law." I here see an "end of all (human) perfection, unless thy law be

In my delight I should have perished in my affliction for all
 men are righteous." What law could this have been? See
 David's letter, for that kills instead of quickening,—and yet we know
 David did not live under Mosaic's law of "the ministrations of the law."—
 the Spirit's ministrations were not known in those days—then
 our own views we are shut up to the generation that has been which pro-
 duced these wonderful effects upon the mind of not only David, but of all
 saints of the Old Testament economy.—"He will say, 'the imp-
 udence to say that he cannot reason.' I demand, where, in the Book
 of God, such things are said of, and such effects produced to, the "carnal" ordi-
 nances" the types shadows or sacrifices of the "spiritual economy" which "could
 never make comers thereto perfect," and which are styled "beggarly elements,"
 a "burden which neither we nor our fathers were able to bear." A law pro-
 ducing such effects under a legal economy has some demands upon our considera-
 tion, especially if it perpetuates itself by producing precisely the same ef-
 fects after its death is proclaimed, and men warned not to touch the dead body
 or it will kill them. But does not the Spirit of God call it the letter? Yes ver-
 rily, and sealed letter too—a letter the seal of which can be broken by none but
 by the Spirit himself, for sin has sealed it—but a letter, which when unsealed
 reveals the character of God—the true character and condition of man—and
 the nature, character, and tendency of sin;—and not only man's inability to
 save himself, but his determination to destroy himself. How could we know
 sin but by the law? Paul "had not known sin but by the law, for he had not
 known lust except the law had said 'thou shalt not covet,'" "where there is no
 law there is no transgression of the law." Did the advent of the Lord Jesus
 Christ render the law less spiritual or its instrumentality less necessary? Is not
 the law the same holy thing that it was when stamped upon the moral nature of
 man, in the day that he was made in the image of God, which consisted in right-
 eousness and true holiness; but man has lost this image, and by consequence
 lost all knowledge of the spirituality of this law, but in the day of regeneration
 this lost image is restored; the letter is unsealed and then the righteousness of
 the law is fulfilled, proclaimed, made manifest, and vindicated by those "who
 walk not after the flesh but after the spirit." To honor and fulfil this law Christ
 died;—to open the eyes of the blind that they might see its holiness the Spirit
 of God came;—that through that law, the holiness of the Godhead, the source
 from whence it emanated, might be more fully revealed than under the former
 economy. Hence the present dispensation is emphatically called the ministrati-
 on of the Spirit, while it is the same Spirit working by the same instrumentality,
 and producing the same effects, under ~~the~~. This "letter" then is the Spi-
 rit's instrument by which he has worked—and by which he will continue to
 work—and with which he will not dispense,—and by which he will "make the
 simple wise," to the end of time. But does not the letter kill? Yes says Paul,
 it does kill—it killed me—and thus possessed me of the same mind that was in
 David, for "I delight in the law of God after the inward man" yes it was the
 instrument of my death—"for I through the law became dead to the law that I
 might live to God." Happy death! "I am dead nevertheless and I live." I
 am dead to all my former hopes of obtaining life by the *deeds* of the law, for "by
 the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified"—dead to all *Pharisaical* hopes
 of being able to obey the requirements of a law so holy, so just, and so good.—
 I therefore believe in "Christ who is the end of the law for righteousness to every
 one that believeth"; but he is not the end of the law for destruction, for
 he came not to "destroy but to fulfil the law" for it is indestructible. "How-
 ever, and earth may pass away, but one iota or tittle shall in no wise pass from the
 law until it be fulfilled." But it kills in another sense—it condemns the whole
 earth already passed upon all who do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ;
 "he that believeth not is condemned already," therefore, as well might

at the hands of the judge who passes upon him the sentence of death—*the man who has broken the law of God, which condemns the sinner to death, to expect life from that law until he obtains that pardon which is in Jesus Christ and comes to him through his seal.* Having now transposed the letter of this law into every title, "but makes alive according to the spirit of the mystery—*this law by which the Sabbath holds such a prominent place in this law from which Christ himself says "one jot or tittle shall in no wise be taken away;*" I demand of Wishart in what part of the Scriptures do we find doctrine taught that *faith absolves our obligations to the law of God as a life of life?* And I also ask any man who has read his letters, if their evident tendency, nay their *literal* teaching, is not to establish such a doctrine! Paul anticipating such a *caviller*, asks the question, "Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? God forbid." Wishart replies "Certainly!"—those who are in Christ the true temple are at perfect liberty to profane the Sabbath—nay they ought to do so—I have already proved that the "day" God made (Psalm 118b) and the Sabbath named by Isaiah meant "Christ," and not the Sabbath at all—I therefore cast away the moral law which enjoins keeping the Sabbath holy to the Lord; I will not suffer that it (the holy Sabbath) should be bound on my shoulders or those of my fellow beings." I do know, that the Lord Jesus when on earth declared that he was Lord of the Sabbath—which according to my rule of interpretation makes him Lord of himself! After this, who will say "that I cannot reason." I do every thing systematically; for example, If I find the Sabbath "in company with the ten commandments"—I call it the "letter that kills"; if in "company with weekly, monthly or fifty year Sabbaths" I call it a "type and a shadow" &c.; if "in company" with a "stone" or a "gate" I call it "Christ" as already shown; if it is seen in vision in the "Isle of Patmos," I in that case look the Greek and make JOHN instead of being in the "Spirit on the Lord's day" look through a vista down to the end of time,—although the best Greek Lexicographers have rendered the word "Lord's day," and to put it beyond dispute, add "or Sunday." In fact I sometimes call it a "hell plague that has deformed and damned human nature." What does my friend mean by *nature*? Is it the *moral or physical* nature of man? if the moral,—most men have been led to believe that it was *sin*, and not the Sabbath, that effected its deformity;—if the *physical*, should we ask any person who may suffer some inconvenience from *physical* deformity, how he came by it, I am of opinion that he would not tell us he came by it from keeping the Sabbath; and if pressed for the *true cause* would be compelled however reluctantly to assign something else than *Sabbath sanctification* as the cause.

As his seventh letter contains the substance of all the others—is the most plausible, and therefore the more dangerous,—just as counterfeit coins pass current in proportion as they approximate in appearance to the genuine;—it shall now have my particular attention—as he is "willing that the discussion should be a little more narrowed still," and that his "antagonist should consider" that he is "prepared to confine the question within the first thirteen verses of" the 4th chap. of Hebrews.

In glancing over the surface of this letter, a person cannot fail to be struck with the *tameness* of the production compared with its predecessors—and is ready to conclude, that the *Fish* has lost its "electricity"—it breathes such a spirit of moderation—and contains as many abstract truths apart from their application. The thought crosses the mind of the Scripture student, has not Wishart, since writing his 3rd letter, been on a tour to the "land of Uz," and held a conference with Job's three friends so notable for speaking the truth in the abstract, and not less so for perverting those truths in applying them to Job for the purpose of branding him as a hypocrite. Any person who has read the book of Job, and there seen Job's defence of himself, and his three friends' defence

God's moral government—would be struck with surprise in coming to the 7th and 8th verses of the last chapter of that Book on finding that he told them that his "wrath was kindled against them," he ordered Job and he would pray for them that he would "deal with them kindly;" yet many of the teachers of the day and his friends made it exceptionable,—but their *apology* is to be found in the 10th verse, where they sin, and need of an intercessor, and that is just so with Wishart's seventh letter.

Just so with Wishart's seventh letter, he says, "but when we find these truths brought forward for the purpose of doing away with that sacred day of rest, upon which, in the ordinances of his own nature, God manifests himself more abundantly to the soul of his own children, then these truths lose all their *unction*, and the *perverter* of these truths has reason to fear lest God "deal with him after his folly," which he certainly will do unless a greater than Job pray for him. The greater part of his seventh letter goes to establish the important and blessed doctrine, that the true rest of the child of God is obtained by "faith in Jesus Christ;" but O how *perjacious*, and *perverse* of all *faith*, (except the *faith* of devils), is his *conclusion* drawn from such glorious premises—"I am not under a *Sabbatical* day—I do not hold a *ritual Sabbath*, because God has given me an antitype, has fully described to me a doctrinal moral and inward Sabbath." This is his own summing up of *all* that he has written concerning the life of *faith* in the soul, namely, that *faith* in Jesus Christ *absolves all obligation* to obey the moral law of God—and hence he is not bound to keep the fourth precept of that law which *enjoins* the Sabbath day to be kept holy to the Lord. No wonder that he himself should become frightened at such a conclusion, which he sees inevitably flows from his teaching; and therefore modestly ventures the hint, in the first of this letter, that "when the preachers and people of this place (St. John) say of me that I do *away* with the Sabbath I consider that they mistake or misrepresent my intentions."

"I / / "mistake or misrepresent my intentions." He does not wish to "do away" with the Sabbath, *not he*. Had he said with a Sabbath, a Sabbath found *nowhere* but in his own *diseased imagination*, we could easily believe him; with this vision of his own brain he does not wish to do away—for he seems to be *fearful* that "it has little chance of being soon *described*," because "society is in such a condition that it cannot see the Sabbath that he has provided from Scripture." Let us hope that it never will "be described;" of this I am certain, that the child of God kept by his *grace* through faith unto salvation never will "describ" it. This then is the Sabbath that he would not do "away with." But should any doubt of his determination to do away with the Christian Sabbath, let him look at the closing sentence of his third letter where the Christian Sabbath is thus designated, "I assert that it is an instance of the letter that killeth, and that it is a notable part of that edifice of devilish masonry that has been grimly raised for ages, that hell plague that has deformed and damned human nature, and whose abrogation is to be so awful, so rapid, and so complete," and all his doubts will vanish—and he will at once discover how badly error holds together, and what a consistent "reasoner" and writer Mr. Wishart is, when he so flatly contradicts his own statements by telling us that he does not want to do "away with the Sabbath," while he explicitly charges upon it that which no one could effect, namely, the damnation of "human nature." What! do you *agree* with that which has "deformed and damned human nature?" Why, the *whole* mind of every housekeeper, mechanic, or trader would revolt at such a conclusion. By the bye, this is the first time that it ever entered into my *whole* mind, that to be a "housekeeper, tradesman, or mechanic" disqualifies me from understanding the mystery of *faith*. It occurs to me that somewhere in the *Bible* this question is asked, "hath not God chosen the poor of this world in faith and heirs of his kingdom which he hath promised to them

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that love him?" It is also said, that "not many wise men after the flesh, nor many noble, or many mighty are called." These good people who are mentioned are addressed, " Beware of false prophets; for they come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." It therefore speaks of the gospel, and requires to comprehend it: for Christ has not bidden us to preach to the poor, but to the rich. We do not preach well, if we have no followers. Indeed, I am not sure that we do well, if we have any. In unravelling of rather remarkable difficulties, this may appear evident, let us now examine his strange position. (as he calls it). The very first sentence of his letter reads as follows: "My sixth position is that a distinct antitype or doctrinal equivalent has been designed for the literal Sabbath of the Old Testament." What that 'antitype' is, his letter informs us, namely, "resting in Christ by faith." Now admitting, for a moment, that the "Sabbath of the Old Testament" was the Type of the antitype which he has given us—namely faith—then where does his position land him? All agree that the antitype swallows up the type—or in other words the type immediately ceases to be a type, and disappears the moment the antitype is come. What then is the conclusion from his premises? Why simply this, that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Samuel and the prophets, David, and all the Old Testament Saints, whose faith is recorded in the New Testament, and both the type and the antitype existing harmoniously together in social concord—had both the "equivalent" and the thing for which they held that equivalent—for they had both faith and the Sabbath! This is a most singular position—it has two legs quite dissimilar—as "divers" from each other as Pharaoh's "lean and fat cattle;" a type and an equivalent rendered synonymous. One of them has no existence in Theology, the other is opposed to the rules of justice and equity; no just man would take and persist in holding an equivalent, and yet hold on to the thing for which he had received that equivalent—and no man ever saw or ever heard of such a thing as the other leg—namely a type and antitype existing together. The latter implies the former, while an equivalent does not imply the non-existence of the thing for which it is given, but the right of the holder of it to give up that thing while it is so held. What an unjust man David must have been, when after having been "encompassed by the sorrows of death," he could thus address his soul, "return unto thy rest O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee!" Here he had Wishart's equivalent for the "Sabbath of the Old Testament;" and as he had entered his mind to give up honestly the thing for which this rest was equivalent—but persisted in holding on to both most tenaciously. Yet he could not even assert, that the obtaining of the antitype and equivalent did not keep him hold on more firmly to the type, the thing for which he had given up the equivalent, and that the possession of this equivalent produced no rest, but rather trouble upon the mind of its possessor to this day—and some still hold on to it, it is the want and not the possession of this antitype and equivalent that gives rise to giving up the type or Sabbath. However, probably Mr. Wishart's blindness thought that faith was only an entrance upon that rest. But, says Paul, Hebrews iv. chap. 3rd verse, "We which believe do enter into rest." and still finding himself encompassed with many troubles, having "tears without end and fightings within," rejoiced in this faith as the earnest and foretaste of that rest that "remaineth to the people" of God, where the "wicked cease from troubling" and where the weary have an eternal and an uninterrupted rest. His view of the subject seems to be in strict accordance with what the angels in heaven commanded John to write:—Revelations xiv. chap. and verse 13, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; ye shall rest from your labours and their works do follow you." What means this? says Wishart, the living rest from their labours (which have to labour) as God did from his" (whose work was finished).



