

**THE ABIDING SABBATH:
AN ARGUMENT FOR THE
PERPETUAL OBLIGATION
OF THE LORD'S DAY**

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The abiding Sabbath: an argument for the perpetual obligation of the Lord's day by George Elliott

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GEORGE ELLIOTT

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AN ARGUMENT
FOR THE
PERPETUAL OBLIGATION OF THE LORD'S DAY.

THE FLETCHER PRIZE ESSAY FOR 1884.

BY REV. GEORGE ELLIOTT.

"There remaineth, therefore, a Sabbath-keeping for the people
of God." HEB. 4:9.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY,
150 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

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THE FLETCHER PRIZE ESSAY.

THE late Hon. RICHARD FLETCHER, of Boston, Mass., by his last will, placed in the hands of the Trustees of Dartmouth College a fund from the income of which they are to offer, once in two years, a prize of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS for the essay best adapted to accomplish the purposes indicated by the testator as follows:

“In view of the numerous and powerful influences constantly active in drawing professed Christians into fatal conformity with the world, both in spirit and practice; in view also of the lamentable and amazing fact that Christianity exerts so little practical influence, even in countries nominally Christian, it has seemed to me that some good might be done by making permanent provision for obtaining and publishing once in two years a Prize Essay, setting forth truth and reasoning calculated to counteract such worldly influences, and impressing on the minds of all Christians a solemn sense of their duty to exhibit in their godly lives and conversation the beneficent effects of the religion they profess, and thus increase the efficiency of Christianity in Christian countries and recommend its acceptance to the heathen nations of the world.”

The above prize was offered, for the fifth time, in the month of January, 1883. And inasmuch as the Christian Sabbath or Lord's day is vitally related to all Christian life, the specific theme designated for the Essay was,

THE PERPETUAL OBLIGATION OF THE LORD'S DAY.

The following gentlemen constituted the committee of award: Prof. William Thompson, D. D., Prof. Llewellyn Pratt, D. D., and Rev. George M. Stone, D. D., all of Hartford, Conn. After a careful and thorough examination the prize was awarded to an essay which proved to have been written by Rev. George Elliott, of West Union, Iowa, and which is contained in the present volume.

SAMUEL C. BARTLETT,
PRESIDENT OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, Sept., 1884.

PREFACE.

THIS book has been written in the full conviction that fresh discussion of this great question is a want of to-day. While little that is new may be stated, yet it is hoped that the old facts and arguments have been freshly put and so arranged as to lead to the one definite conviction of the perpetual obligation of the Christian Sabbath or Lord's Day.

Many works of much value have been written on the Sabbath; but most of them have been marred either by an under-estimate of the obligation of the day, or by a reckless over-statement of facts in its defence. It is hoped that these defects have been in some measure avoided in these pages. No fact has been introduced which has not been traced to its final authority. In Scripture interpretation it has been sought to present only the results of candid exegesis, and no argument has been adduced simply for the purpose of making a point, but only in the full belief of its validity. Statements of possible value; facts not fully established, but having some probability; and arguments of only partial validity, when introduced at all, are, it is hoped, so fully guarded by cautious statement as to mislead no one.

The writer acknowledges his special indebtedness to Hessey's Bampton Lectures on "Sunday" for direction to those sources of information, historical, patristic, and scientific, which must settle the question in the last resort.

May the blessing of the Lord of the Sabbath rest on this and every honest effort to commend his day to the reason and conscience of mankind!

WEST UNION, Iowa.

G. E.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	7
------------------------	---

PART I. SABBATH OF NATURE.

CHAPTER I. Ordinance of Creation	13
---	----

CHAPTER II. Reason of the Sabbath	29
--	----

CHAPTER III. The Sabbath and the Individual	35
--	----

CHAPTER IV. The Sabbath and Society	57
--	----

CHAPTER V. The Sabbath and Religion	77
--	----

CHAPTER VI. The Primitive Sabbath	95
--	----

PART II. SABBATH OF THE LAW.

CHAPTER I. Its Institution	109
---	-----

CHAPTER II. The Fourth Commandment	114
---	-----

CHAPTER III. Transient and Permanent Elements in the Sabbath of Israel	130
---	-----