

**HENDERSONIAN TESTIMONY;
BEING FIVE ESSAYS BY WORKING
MEN OF GLASGOW ON THE
ADVANTAGES OF THE SABBATH
TO THE WORKING CLASSES**

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Hendersonian testimony; being five essays by working men of Glasgow on the advantages of the sabbath to the working classes by Andrew Thomson

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ANDREW THOMSON

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THE
HENDERSONIAN TESTIMONY;

BEING

FIVE ESSAYS

BY WORKING MEN OF GLASGOW

ON

The Advantages of the Sabbath to the
Working Classes.

EDITED BY THE

REV. ANDREW THOMSON, B. A.,
EDINBURGH.

A. FULLARTON & CO.:
EDINBURGH, LONDON, AND DUBLIN.

1849.

EDINBURGH:
FULLARTON AND MAUNAB, PRINTERS, LEITH WALK.

To JOHN HENDERSON, Esq. of PARK,

THE TRUE FRIEND OF THE WORKING MAN,

BECAUSE THE

ENLIGHTENED AND DEVOTED DEFENDER OF THE

CHRISTIAN SABBATH,

THESE ESSAYS, THE PRODUCTION OF WORKING MEN,

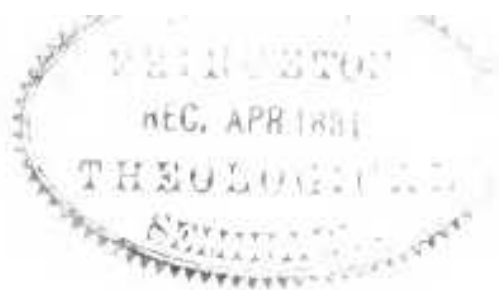
ARE RESPECTFULLY AND GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THEIR AUTHORS.

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INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

BY THE EDITOR

WE have no intention to introduce these essays by another essay. They need no such artificial buttress. They are the honest manly sentiments of hard-working men on a matter which they justly feel to be of vital interest to themselves and their class, expressed in a manner which proves them to be men of reading and reflection, and not unfrequently with an unadorned eloquence and natural beauty that must always command respect, sometimes even admiration. With this knowledge of their origin, and estimate of their value, we may confidently trust them as bearing in themselves their best letter of commendation. We deem it a matter of justice to the authors to say, that, in discharging our office as Editor, we have confined ourselves almost entirely to the work of abbreviation, and even this has been sparingly indulged. The arguments, the illustrations, and with very insignificant exceptions, the words are entirely the authors' own; and in truth any greater interference on our part would have been equally presumptuous and unnecessary. It is with singular propriety that they have inscribed their volume to one whose name is so honourably

associated with effort in the Sabbath cause,—a name which seems destined to be written on that shining roll which bears the imperishable names of a THORNTON and a HOWARD.

Nothing has more forcibly struck us, in the progress of that great movement in defence of the Christian Sabbath of which the working men's prize essays form so peculiar and powerful an element, than the way in which the Divine Ruler of the universe, and Lord of the Sabbath, often makes the assaults of men against the truths and institutions of his word the means of bringing out those truths and institutions into greater prominence, and of greatly strengthening their line of defence. A familiar instance of this is to be found in the essay of Hume on miracles, which drew forth the masterly reply of Campbell of Aberdeen, and gave to the world a more full and distinct statement of the argument, and exhibition of its strength, than had ever previously been given. The same has happened in reference to some of the fundamental truths of Christianity, and is taking place at this very hour in regard to the Lord's day. The attempts to invade its sacredness that within the last few years have been made on so wide a scale, and to excuse the invasion by asserting its abolished or relaxed authority, have drawn forth a host of vigorous defenders. The whole question has been discussed anew. Every sophism has been answered, every subterfuge exposed. The Sabbath has been surrounded with a new blaze of evidence. The doubting have been confirmed, the faint-hearted emboldened. The enemies of the Sabbath, becoming conscious of their inability to maintain their ground

in the theological argument, satisfy themselves, for the most part, with the Parthian mode of warfare,—fling their feeble javelin and fly; while by those who have been led by recent controversy anew to examine its claims, it is beheld stable, solemn, and sublime, as that Sinai from whose hoary summits it was republished, and blissful as that Eden amid whose flowers and incense it was first given to man.

But while the modern agitation of the question has thus contributed to restore, in the minds of myriads, decaying impressions of the permanent authority of the Sabbath, we do not think that we exaggerate in asserting, that the testimony of the working men in the essays, of which those contained in this volume are a part, have literally added a new chapter to the illustration of the wisdom and benignity of this hallowed institute. The pressure of toil upon the industrial part of our population has given to their testimony all the intensity and earnestness of a dear-bought experience, while the modern facilities of printing have given a voice to that testimony which in other circumstances it could not have acquired. First was heard the touching testimony of that humble and honoured woman who wrote the "Pearl of Days," then arose the manly voices of the printer of Ipswich, the shoemaker of St. Boswells, and the machinist of Dundee, and following them more than a thousand others, representing tens of thousands more from mine and field, from loom and anvil, from foundry and factory, from soldier's barrack and sailor's cabin, speaking their personal experience of the priceless blessings which the Sabbath brought them on its wings. What a rich store of fact and illus-