

Keeping Sabbath -

A pious man desires to comply with what he believes to be the will of God, but conscious of his own frailty, he recoils from exhorting others to conform to his own opinions. Such compulsion, of course what it shapes it may be the opening of persecution - God has given man no authority to compel obedience to his precepts -

Religion is a thing between a man & his maker - surely it be the voluntary offering of the heart, it is but a vain cold repetition of words, which cannot be acceptable to God - If a man does not believe that religion exalts it of him or adds to obtain from labor on the Sabbath, he will submit with reluctance & in this submission there will be no piety on his part nor will it advance the piety of others -

There can be no more justice or liberation in this than there there would be in enforcing in favor of Catholics, upon the Protestants, an abstinence from ~~last~~ meat during Lent, or in enforcing the ~~Presbyterian~~ Christians to worship Mahomet -

1. There is no one precept in the New Testament commanding us to keep a Sabbath - If we are bound to keep one, it is in consequence of the Mosaic law -

2. The language of the 4th commandment is, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord" But the Christians keep the first day, not the seventh -

3. There is not a single word either in the old or New Testament, nor even an allusion relating to the substitution of the first day for the seventh - The subject is not mentioned in any of the discourses of Christ nor in any of the epistles of his apostles -