13.

**6.**] **For this cause also** is   
*parallel with “wherefore”* ver. 5,—giving  
*another* result of the divine appointment  
of the civil power;—not *dependent on*ver. 5.

**for they** (the authorities) **are  
ministers of God, attending continually to  
this very thing,** viz. *ministration*. Tertullian   
remarks, that what the Romans  
lost by the Christians refusing to bestow  
gifts on their temples, they gained by their  
conscientious payment of taxes.

**7.**] **tribute** is *direct* payment for state purposes:   
**custom** is **toll**, or tax on produce.

**fear**, to those set over us and  
having power: **honour**, to those, but likewise   
to all on whom the state has conferred  
distinction.

**8–10.**] *Exhortation to  
untversal love of others.*

**8.**] ‘*Pay*all other debts: *be indebted* in the matter  
of love *alone.*’ This debt increases the  
more, the more it is paid: because the  
practice of love makes the principle of love  
deeper and more active. By the word **law**  
is meant, not the Christian law, but *the  
Mosaic law* of the decalogue. “He who  
practises Love, *the higher duty,* has, even  
before he does this, fulfilled the law, *the*  
*lower.”* De Wette.

**9.**] The words “*thou shalt not bear false witness,*”  
inserted in the A.V., are omitted in almost.  
all our most ancient authorities.

**comprehended**, i.e. brought under one head,—  
‘united in the one principle from which  
all flow.’

**10.**] All the commandments   
of the law above cited are *negative:*  
the formal fulfilment of them is therefore  
attained, *by working no ill* to one’s neighbour.   
What *greater things* Love works, he  
does not now say: it *fulfils the law,* by *abstaining   
from that which the law forbids.*

**11–14.**] *Enforcement of the foregoing,  
and occasion taken for fresh exhortations,   
by the consideration that* THE  
DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND.

**11.**] **And this**, i.e. ‘*and let us do this,*’  
viz., live in no debt but that of love,  
for other reasons, and especially for this  
following one.

**sleep** here imports the  
state of worldly carelessness and indifference   
to sin, which allows and practises