

on the whole it is certain if Christians are bound to keep a sabbath, it is in consequence of the fourth commandment viz the seventh day & not the first - Saturday & not Sunday - over laws their setting apart the 1st instead of the 7th has added to the Christian law & imposed a restraint upon Christian liberty -

The permitted Christians did not observe any sabbath - Till the reign of Constantine A.D. 300, to meet together on the first day of the week for religious worship in the morning & evening & to pursue their usual avocations during the rest of the week - The work of Justin Martyr a very distinguished Christian Advocate who wrote about the year 150 throws much light on this subject - It is a dialogue between a learned Jew & a Christian - The Jew upbraids the Christian because his sect observe no sabbath but are in this respect like the Pagans - Justin makes the Christian admit & justify it & he denies at the Jewish sabbath as a day of mere abstinence & states that as "Sabbath" & sacrifices began from Moses so according to the counsel of your fathers they were to end in Christ - again continuing his argument against the observance of a Sabbath he says: "Do you not see that the elements are never to be nor keep a Sabbath?" Justin thus admits that the Christians did not keep a Sabbath & insists that they were no more bound to do it than to conform to

any other Jewish rite which had been abrogated by the Christian dispensation - The first day of the week was not observed as a Sabbath until A.D. 300 under Constantine when Christianity had become the religion of the state - an edict then went forth com-

manding "all the Judges & town people & the occupation of all trades to rest on that venerable day of the week (die solis) But let those who are interested in the security freely & at full liberty attend to the business of agriculture because it often happens that no other day is so fit for sowing corn & planting vines &c." - The emperor did not deem it prudent to include the Jews among his despotic edicts & it was not till long afterwards that the Priesthood having gained great power in the state were enabled to arrest the business of agriculture - on the whole it is no part of the Christian duty to keep a Sabbath & if any day is to be thus hallowed it is the 7th not the 1st. It is an innocent usage - let those who wish it continue to observe it, but do not compel others to do it - It has sprung from a foul unnatural union between Church & State & has its origin in ~~the~~ the same source with all the other papal usurpations of Christianity which have overwhelmed & buried the simplicity of our religion under a flood of idolatrous ceremonies -