

The Sabbath Recorder

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For the Sabbath Recorder. THE VOLUNTEERS. Written for a Sabbath-School Collection. BY MRS. SARAH S. ROCKWELL. King Jesus marches forth to war— Who'll be his volunteers? He waits a host of heroes brave— No matter what their years.

For the Sabbath Recorder. NATURE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SABBATH-LAW. An Essay read before the Seventh-Day Baptist General Conference, at its session in Alfred, by HENRY W. BEECHER.

The theme set me can have but a limited treatment in a single essay; but since I have the honor to present my essay to a body of thinking men, I shall be justifiable in treating my subject somewhat abstractly, and with scanty illustrations.

Before attempting an analysis of the Sabbath law, I must seek the nature and significance of law generally. What, then, is law, and what are its characteristics?

Law, in its most general sense, is a rule of action. Generally, this definition applies to every kind of action, whether of matter or of mind, intelligent or unintelligent, free or necessary.

The most general distinction of law is that of physical and moral. The law of gravity, for example, is a specimen of the former. It is a rule determining how gravitation operates on bodies so related to each other as to be affected by it.

Rise, now, to the nature of moral beings, freely acting, and inquire, is there anything in the nature and relations of moral beings which determines how they must act toward each other? We at once encounter the fact, that, consistent with moral necessity, there can be no such iron necessity as determines the influence and actions of physical substances, under the operation of physical laws.

Law is based in nature, whether it be the physical or moral department of nature. Of this point, the best legal mind of our age agrees. Spencer's doctrine is to be a rule, obligation, or requirement of natural justice.

Again—"The science of what is just and unjust." Blackstone—"The primary objects of law are rights and wrongs. Law is founded in those immutable principles by which the Creator is governed."

Jacob's Law Dictionary—"Law, a rule for the self-government of society, given to every man that which doth belong to him."

Chief Justice Hobart—"The laws of nature are immutable, and are the laws of laws." If these definitions be true, then law is but the expression of the Divine Creator, voiced in the harmony of worlds, moving grandly on towards the infinite good.

Blackstone—"If any human law should enjoin us to do a wrong, we are bound to transgress that human law." By this we conclude that law is no arbitrary dictum, formulated by the mere will of any lawmaker, human or divine.

Such being true, the primary attribute of law is manifest, viz., its universality. Since all moral beings have the same natures and relations, moral law must require the same things of all, in whatever world they may be found.

2d. Law is impartial. It knows no privileged classes. What it requires of one, it does of another—no more, no less. By this I mean, that law lays its claims upon every human being, for that state of will and affection which constitutes a complete surrender, and an unreserved proffer of all the working faculties of each subject.

3d. Law is immutable. Being founded in immutable natures, law can never change, till nature lose her stability. What is law to-day, will be law eternally, unless a time shall come when being shall drop to nonentity.

If, then, there is a moral law, or a rule of action for moral beings, it must be a rule of action growing out of the nature of moral beings. It must be that rule of behavior by which moral beings ought to be controlled.

and perplexity, and worry, and sadness; sadness is banished and sorrow disappears. If, in addition to this, we put on clean linen and clothe ourselves fresh, it is not too much to say, that we are now created; life is new, the world is new; we have new thoughts, and desires, and anticipations, and hopes.

My days and years have silent been. For all the years since I was born, Some dreary rhymes have dropped from me. Some sad hath sorrow wrung; But now, my dear friends, I sing! I am no longer young!

WOODMAN, spare that tree! Touch not a single bough! In youth it sheltered me, And till I propped it now.

WATER. We have lost the sense of the sacredness of water. In the eastern lands, where water was exceedingly scarce, it was held in an esteem amounting almost to veneration.

Every month that we delay this healthful step complicates the case. The extended population, the settled before, grows more irritable; local government, and supercedes it; the government at Washington is called to interfere in one and another difficulty, and this will be done ineffectually, and sometimes with great injustice.

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has changed, not alone institutions, but ideas. The whole country has advanced. Public sentiment is exalted far beyond what it has been at any former period.

For the sake of the freedom, for the sake of the South and its millions of our fellow-countrymen, for our own sake, and for the great cause of freedom and civilization, I urge the immediate reunion of all parts which rebellion and war have shattered.

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