

FOR THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

The Rev. J. G. Shearer, the Travelling Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance, has returned from a flying trip to the West, and brings good news of the attitude of the people of the West toward the Lord's Day. We have never before known their real sentiment on this great question. We have heard from isolated districts, and what we have heard has led us to infer that the Sabbath was little cared for. The report was often based upon the action of one man, who, in the face of a dominant public opinion, openly violated the law of the Sabbath. It gave spice to a tale of the West, and was taken to represent the attitude of Western people generally.

We are glad to have the unbiased opinion of one who has given himself to find out what the people think about the Sabbath and its obligations. We were glad to hear about the keeping of the Sabbath in Quebec, and about the attitude of the Church of Rome in that province toward Sabbath observance. Mr. Shearer has done equally good service for the Territories and British Columbia, and we hope the light will be let in upon the practice of other communities in Canada, till we are able to arrive at a fair judgment of what Canadians think about the obligations of the Sabbath Day. Perhaps we shall find that those in favored Ontario, who have hitherto prided themselves upon being better than most of their compatriots, have a lower estimate of those obligations than any other province.

From East and West comes reports of action taken by the local Associations that would be deemed very extreme amongst us. At the close of a Sabbath day service in the Presbyterian Church in Truro, N.S., a mass meeting of the Christian people of that town and district was held to consider the gross violation of the Sabbath law on the part of the Intercolonial Railway. The meeting was addressed by the Anglican Archdeacon, and a resolution was presented to the meeting by one of the Presbyterian pastors of the district, and carried by the standing vote of all present, protesting against the open violation of the Sabbath day by the Railway corporation, and instructing the Executive to take steps to have it stopped. Would such action be attempted in Ontario, and if it were would it provoke anything but a smile when the directors read it next morning? It is time Ontario awakened to her position on the Sabbath Day question. It will be found to be anything but creditable to hear.

DEFENCE OF THE SABBATH.

At the annual convention of the Lord's Day Alliance of Nova Scotia, held on the 12th inst., a communication was read from Archbishop O'Brien (R. C.) of Halifax, expressing sympathy with the movement of the Alliance. His Grace took the ground that in the interests both of the social and moral well being of mankind, all unnecessary servile work on the Lord's Day should be prevented. Prominent Roman Catholics have a place on the executive and various committees of the Alliance. It is a good thing to see

Roman Catholics and Protestants uniting in the defence of the Sabbath, the observance of which is so seriously threatened by the Mammonism and materialism of the present day. If Christians of all denominations will have the courage and resolution to present a solid and determined front to the soulless corporations which are everywhere trampling upon the Sabbath, and depriving thousands of working men of their inalienable right to enjoy that day as one for rest and worship, they will wield an influence which will undoubtedly cause these corporations to pay more respect than they do now to the conscientious convictions of those who believe that the Sabbath was made for the people, and that no individual or corporation has any right to deprive them of the sacred privileges it was designed to confer upon them.

An uprising of the Christian men and women of Canada—in support of the ministers of the Gospel and in vigorous opposition to the prevailing and growing Sabbath desecration—is what is wanted to give force to the campaign in defence of the Sabbath which is just now being organized throughout Canada. If it is "righteousness which exalteth a nation," what is Canada going to do without the maintenance of the Christian Sabbath, one of the chief bulwarks of national righteousness and national strength?

Literary Notes.

The articles in Table Talk for March are on a great variety of subjects. "Cheap Housekeeping in Paris" gives many good ideas for those who are anxious to spend a year in the French capital on very modest incomes. The menus for the month are always helpful to the housekeeper who wishes to have her table nice, for the dishes selected are never extravagant ones. Table Talk Publishing Company, Philadelphia.

The American Kitchen Magazine for March contains an article which describes two ideal kitchens, with plans showing the position of the different shelves, pantries, etc. "The Louisa M. Alcott Club" is a paper which was read at the Lake Placid Conference. The usual number of excellent receipts is given in the department called "From Day to Day." Home Science Publishing Company, Boston.

Book News for March comes to hand with its usual interesting table of contents. This magazine is a valuable one for book-buyers and for those who wish to keep en courant with the literature of the day. All the best books are reviewed as they come out. Its exceedingly low price—fifty cents a year—is another point in its favour. Under the heading "Best Selling Books" we read that "the chief interest of lovers of fiction in the past month appears to have centered in the 'Life and Death of Richard Yea-and-Nay,' a story with humor, creative imagination, and a rich style to commend it, and which gives some striking studies of historical characters. Unabated interest was likewise shown in those other striking personages on the literary stage, Mrs. Humphrey Ward's 'Eleanor' and 'Alice of Old Vinennes.' In miscellany, 'An Englishwoman's Love Letters' naturally took fore-

most place, while the strong claims of biography were well attested by the calls for the 'Life of Huxley' and for the Napoleonic works. John Wanamaker, Philadelphia.

The Studio for February contains the first of a series of articles on "Coloured Etchings in France" by Gabriel Mourey. The many illustrations from the work of different artists give us a good idea of this rather new departure in art. An illustrated article on "Mr. George Frampton, A. R. A., and his work for the Glasgow Art Gallery," tells of the success of this artist in the sculptural decorations of the new Art Gallery at Glasgow. C. J. Praetorius, writing of "Maori Houses," says: "The ornamentation lavished upon the domestic and other buildings of the Maoris is one of the most remarkable characteristics of that people." He then goes on to describe these houses, giving many drawings illustrative of his subject. Ernst Knauff discusses the work of Edwin H. Blashfield, an American sculptor, in a very interesting manner, and under the heading "Studio-Talk" appear notes of interest from many points in Europe.—The Studio, 5 Henrietta St., London, Eng.

The Bibelot for March contains articles by William Morris, in which he pours out his love for "The Churches of North France." Of the builders he said: "Ah! do I not love them with just cause, who certainly loved me, thinking of me sometimes between the strokes of their chisels; and for this love of all men which they had, and moreover for the great love of God, which they certainly had too; for this, and for this work of theirs, the uprising of the great cathedral front with its beating heart of the thoughts of men, wrought into the leaves and flowers of the fair earth; wrought into the faces of good men and true, fighters against the wrong, of angels who upheld them, of God who rules all things; wrought through the lapse of years, and years, and years, by dint of chisel and stroke of hammer, into stories of life and death, the second life, the second death, stories of God's dealings in love and wrath with the nations of the earth, stories of the faith and love of man that dies not; for their love and the deeds through which it worked, I think they will not lose their reward."

"The Nineteenth Century and After."

This well-known review continues to furnish to its readers a great variety of useful and interesting material. Sir Theodore Martin, K. C. B., contributes a sonnet on "Victoria the Good," and Sir Wemyss Reid begins his review of the month with a tribute to the Queen which opens thus: "The blow which everybody knew must sooner or later fall, but which all men put out of their thoughts as something not to be contemplated, has descended upon us at last with awful suddenness, and the new year, the new century gloomy and depressing in many other aspects, has brought with it the crowning sorrow of the Queen's death. It is not an event to be lightly discussed or appraised by any man. The commonplaces natural to us all on such occasions, seem indeed to be strangely out of place in presence of this catastrophe so long foreshadowed and without so completely unexpected. For the moment it blots out every other topic, and seems to leave our world strangely empty of all other subjects of interest." A Plea for the Soul of the Irish People, by George Moore, Higher Grade Board Schools, by Sir Joshua Fitch, etc., show that the bill of fare is as varied as ever. The Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York.