

Day question, one who knows what to say and how to say it—Rev. Dr. Parsons, of Toronto.

Rev. Dr. PARSONS said : The special relation of the Sabbath School to the Lord's Day. All that we have just heard concerning the power and influence and results of Sabbath School work may be said to centre in this one thing—the Lord's Day, as representing the Lord's presence here in the world. And the necessity for this question at this time I think is patent to every man. The suggestions of the President you heard ; the newspapers have informed us throughout of the nature and the character of the conflict upon us, and it is well for everyone engaged in the work of the Lord in the Christian Church to understand the question that is now so pressed upon us, for the issue will depend largely upon the character of those who are now in training as children and youth as to whether the Sabbath Day shall be retained and held in its power in the Province of Ontario, as we have had it from the beginning. There is no question but that the observance of the Lord's Day in this province is greater and more conspicuous than in any province or country of its size in the world. It is often said that those who come to us from the continent of Europe and from the States find fault with the narrowness of this country in its loyalty to the Lord's Day ; but, dear friends, this testimony comes from those who have trampled on the Lord's Day and given it up. Never have I heard from a man or woman that believed in the Lord's Day as the signal and token of His presence and authority in the world but that has said, "Keep your Sabbath—a joy ; a delight it is to come into a city, to come into a province, to come into a town, where the Lord's Day is visibly observed." You have all perhaps observed that we are on a drift from Sabbath observance rather than toward it—a drift that is seen in very many points. Our railroads have increased their facilities for transportation, for traffic, for passenger conveyance, within the last five years. Many of our cities are questioning whether they cannot trample on the Lord's Day by establishing railway travel in the city. Our country villages are being invaded by excursions and the incursion of men who are averse to the Sabbath, destroying the peace and trampling on the rights of citizens in the cities of our commonwealth. Now, it seems to me, when we look at the tendency of things, we need to make every possible effort in the way of influence and power to retain what we have. We have a Sabbath ; we have a statute protecting it ; we should maintain it ; and to do that public sentiment must be maintained and increased that will sanction the Lord's Day and contend for it as a very necessity for the best purity of citizenship, for the public peace, for the best righteousness and government, and for the peace and moral growth of our cities. (Applause.) I notice in the advocacy of this day, a disposition to dwell chiefly upon the humanitarian side of the issue. I find that a great many who advocate the preservation of the Sabbath are yet declining in spiritual Sabbath observance. Now, why is this, except

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