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Toronto, March 25, 1897.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

WE draw the earnest attention of ministers and christian friends to the following suggestion by the Lord's Day Alliances made in the interest of Sabbath observance. They suggest that the week of prayer—April 4-11th, be specially observed this year throughout Ontario by such exercises as:

Special prayer in the churches.

Special sermons.

Special Mid-Week prayer meeting.

That branches of the Alliance take up the matter in their several localities and secure united action.

Where there is no branch of the Alliance that the Ministerial Association take action.

These suggestions are admirable and we commend them to the brethren.

It is of great importance that the question of Sabbath Observance should assume a Provincial aspect to a greater degree than it has recently done. Hamilton and Toronto have been fighting their cases courageously and well, but it were better that the Province at large should be heard from in this matter. The members of the legislature ought to be urged by their constituents everywhere to stand on the right side, and the congregations, of all denominations, ought to unite in expressing a strong opinion.

At the present moment the Legislature is being approached by the friends and foes of the Sabbath for legislative enactments of exceedingly great importance and there ought to be no uncertain sound from the Christian citizens of Ontario. Let the question, then be agitated with vigour in every congregation a very practicable and effective way to work is to send largely signed petitions to the government and to the members representing the constituency in favour of the amendment asked for by the Alliance. Letters ought also to be written to members of the government and of the Legislature by every one who can write a letter, to the same effect. The enemy never sleeps. Why is it, that Christians allow the devoted few to do their Master's work for them? Every little will help.

And the first week in April should be made a season for special united prayer that Divine blessing may rest on the efforts put forth for a better Sabbath observance in our land.

THE STRUGGLE IN CRETE.

The turn affairs have taken in Europe with respect to the Cretan difficulty is not re-assuring. The powers, instead of assisting Greece in restoring order and securing freedom from the iniquitous yoke of Turkey, are still threatening, and Great Britain has not broken from the concert of the powers, worthless although that concert is admitted to be. This course has been disappointing. No one will doubt the momentous issues involved, that Turkish bonds are held by Britons, that territorial boundaries might change, and that a European war might break out. These considerations are undoubtedly

important, but to support the Turk for worldly gain, or because of the danger of hostilities, is a price which should be impossible at this late day. The support given to the Turk has caused the martyr-blood of Armenia and unheard of atrocities and that Crete and Greece should be coerced to maintain the same Turk is really too bad. Let Greece and Turkey fight it out if need be. Why should the powers interfere anyway? The only answer is "Money," the filthy lucre of nineteenth century civilization.

There seems to be little doubt that popular feeling in Britain and in France is overwhelmingly in favor of the Anti-Turkish struggle. Even the staid, sober-minded *Spectator* whose caution gives value to its views, believes that the French and British peoples will not long support their governments in a pro-Turkish course. The *British Weekly*, also, whose clear ringing words on the situation, are most inspiring, exonerates the people from the faults of the European concert. In an admirable article in the latest number to hand it quotes a memorable sentence from John Bright on the American War. In speaking for the North, John Bright said: "When your statesmen were hostile or coldly neutral, when many of your rich men were corrupt, when your press that ought to have instructed and defended was mainly written to betray—the fate of a continent and its vast population being in peril—you clung to freedom with an unfaltering trust that God in His infinite mercy will yet make it the heritage of all His children." Commenting on this the *British Weekly* says: "We give full weight to such considerations, and by no means despair. Yet does it not seem as if the country was losing even fugitive glimpses of an ideal? Does it not seem as if the moral instincts of the nation were being gradually reduced to a tame and lifeless impotence? Are we not compelled to say that higher things have grown greyer and dimmer for our people, that materialism is making conquests in the most unexpected quarters, and that many from whom the best might have been hoped for are uneasily acquiescent in a policy from which they would once have retreated with horror? Are we not being dragged into that last humiliation of acting as organs and instruments of the vilest and most remorseless despotism? . . . Our policy is not to calculate on the chance of what this Power and that Power will do, but to clear our own consciences and abide the event. War is a thing to be feared, and if possible, shunned. Nevertheless, one of the chief moral dangers of material prosperity and luxury is the worship of peace for its own sake."

The events of the past few days indicate that British public opinion will divide on party lines, and that no powerful unanimity need be hoped for in the near future.

The belief is entertained in some quarters that wealthy Jews are supplying money on very easy terms to Greece their interest being a racial one. Whether or not it would be difficult to determine in the absence of facts, but that the Jewish people are profoundly stirred by recent events in Greece is borne out by the following paragraph from that able organ of Jewish opinion "The Peculiar People":—

"Greece" it says, "has a spirited history that may, in many respects, repeat itself in the future. Divine Providence has led in these modern times to the reconstruction of the Greek nation, and it is eminently possible that the Greeks may yet bear an essential part in the future of the world's history. At any time it is also possible that events may occur in the Orient such as to lead directly and permanently to the re-organization of