# The Presbyterian Review.

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## Toronto, March 5, 1896.

#### The Christian Sabbath.

IT is perhaps more than possible that many of our Christian people who, while placing a high value upon the Sabbath or Lord's Day, and enjoying the opportunity it affords for rest and worship, and who would deplore, and doubtless resist, any change that would break in upon its quiet, are hardly aware of the real danger that threatens to destroy its sacredness by an attempt to secularize it.

We are living in an age in which money-making and money-getting is exercising a tremendous influence on mankind. This is true to such an extent that many men are inclined to lay hands on even sacred things which seem to stand in the way of gain. The Sabbath Day is one of the sacred institutions which is to-day threatened by this desire for greater gain. The gains of six working days in each week fail to satisfy the inordinate desire for greater wealth, and now many are striving to have that other one day, so benignly set apart by the Allwise and Gracious Creator, who best knew what man's physical and spiritual nature needed, secularized, that its gains may be added to those of the

The favorite plea of mistaken philanthropists and of men whose philanthropy begins and ends in their own selfish interests to drag in the interest of the workingmen. "Give them a chance to breathe the fresh air of heaven; to view the green sword of the suburban parks and the waving foliage of the trees; to meet nature in her solitudes and read lessons out of her ample book." Well, this is nonsense. Let the workingman and his family enjoy all the pleasure and benefit he can derive from nature and from fresh air in the suburbs, but he can do so on Saturday, and the effort of the philanthropist ought to be in that direction.

It is not the working-man who is seeking to do away with the Sabbath, for he knows too well that such a change will mean seven days' work for six days' pay, but it is the greedy rich man and the soulless corporations, and possibly a few who have no religious views and who esteem one day the same as another, that are seeking by insidious encroachments upon the Day to deprive us of the unestimable boon of the Christian Sabbath. We wish to impress upon our readers that the danger is a real one, and that there is cause for all who value the Day, either for the purpose of rest or worship, or both, to seriously consider the situation.

We gladly find space for the appeal of the "Ontario Lord's Day Alliance" in this issue, and commend it most heartily to the Christian people of our Province. Prevention in this matter will not only be much better. but will be infinitely easier, than a cure. We would urge christians to actively co-operate with the Alliance in this noble fight to preserve the Day for rest and

worship. Branches should be organized at all suitable centres and a large membership secured, so that the friends may make their moral and numerical strength felt. We believe the large majority of our people is in favor of the preservation of the Lord's Day, but its existence as a Day for rest and worship may be lost by a failure to realize the danger. We hope the Alliance will be fully sustained.

### An Antipodean Veteran.

The British exchanges note with highly complimentary notices the retirement of Rev. Dr. A. C. Geikie, from the Australian ministry, after a long period of service. Dr. Geikie is a member of a remarkabl family the members of which are known the world ove One is Dr. Cunningham Geikie, the author and preacher, whose "Life of Christ" is so popular, another is our own respected Dr. W. B. Geikie, who stands at the head of the Medical Faculty of Trinity University, and still another is the celebrated geologist, Dr. Archibald Geikie, on whom the mantle of the great Scottish geologist has worthily fallen. The following testimony to Dr. A. C. Geikie's worth is from the Presbyterian of Sydney: -"The departure of Rev. Dr. Geikie from Bathurst, the scene of thirty years' labor, is a marked and regretable event in the history of our Church. Few workmen among us have earned a better title to rest or are more in need of it. Dr. Geikie has given the best portion of the laborious period of his life to the chief city of the West, and here, also, he has expended to the full those rare and shining abilities which would have made him a marked man in any walk of life. It was fit, therefore, that the veteran at the close of the fight should march from the field accompanied with flying colors and all the honors of war. This compliment has been paid him, according to the local press, in no stinted measure. One of the largest meetings ever held in Bathurst came together to bid farewell to its leading minister and ablest citizen, and at the same time to put into his hands a more substantial token of regard. Now that he has come nearer the centre, where we wish him a long and peaceful evening as the close of life draws on, it is permitted us to hope that the presence and advice of our aged Mentor will be of invaluable service to the councils of the Church; but even so, Sydney's gain must be Bathurst's loss. How keenly that is being felt where he had so long made his home, may be gathered from the following comment of a local journal:—'Bathurst owes a debt to Dr. Geikie which will be long remembered. His high intellect, his noble courage, his fearless denunciation of wrong, his broad co-operation for the common good, even his quaint conceits, have stamped St. Stephen's Church as unique. For forty years his commanding personality has permeated throughout the colony, marking the man and the place he filled as peculiar to each other, and by reflection and analogy, peculiar to Bathurst. The man may besucceeded, the place may be filled; but only the years. can build up another Dr. Geikie, or cover up the crevices of the vacancy his departure has made""

## Woman's Power.

In connection with the movement to form a Woman's. National Sabbath Alliance in the United States, an official statement has been issued from which it appears that an earnest effort is being made to resist encroaching social customs, and that the organization will become general throughout the United States. From Washington, it has already extended to some of the