

and America. The proceedings of the Conference consisted mainly in a review of what has already been effected in the way of advancing the observance of the Lord's-day throughout Europe, in both Roman Catholic and Protestant countries, and in the adoption of plans for the future. These plans include influences brought to bear upon the various Governments, but they contemplate more especially the promulgation of sound views and the production of deep convictions amongst the several nationalities of Europe respecting the social benefits to be obtained, and the spiritual blessings to be secured, by the general and religious observance of that day which Divine wisdom has set apart for the advantage of man's entire nature, the refreshment and re-invigoration alike of his body, soul, and spirit. In the prospect now opening up before those who have set themselves, heart and soul, to the furtherance of this great and holy cause, there is much to cheer and to encourage, although the obstacles in their way are such as divine power alone can enable them to meet and overcome. Our report of the Conference we are compelled to defer till next month. Meanwhile we must express our grateful sense of the services which have been rendered to this important movement by its foremost leader, M. Alexandre Lombard, without whose long and persevering efforts it is doubtful whether any such gathering as the Geneva Conference could have been held.

PERSECUTION in Spain continues to increase, and Protestants throughout that country are in a state of great peril and apprehension. Romish intolerance is daily assuming new phases, and manifesting itself in the most offensive and alarming forms. From the negative stage it has passed into the positive, and instead of mere prohibitions we have now overt acts of

violence and outrage. It is stated, on the authority of a *Times* correspondent, that at Barcelona a Protestant has recently undergone seven days' imprisonment in a filthy cell for no other offence than his nonconformity to Rome. In the neighbourhood of Seville, a Scripture-reader was arrested and carried before the Alcalde, who ordered him to prison for a day, and told him he regretted that he could not sprinkle him and all the Protestants in Spain with petroleum, and then set them on fire! The Bishop of Minorca has fulminated the greater excommunication not only against all Protestants, but against all who associate with them on friendly terms, lend them money, leave them legacies, employ them in their houses, or dare to speak a word on their behalf! This is "Catholic unity" with a vengeance, and seems to take us back to the dark days of mediæval tyranny, when the Inquisition reigned supreme, and the national intellect, will, and conscience were alike prostrated in slavish and degrading bondage to the priests. It is not so much any acts of the Spanish Government itself that our brethren in that country have to fear, as the fury of the priesthood, and the fanaticism of such of the civil functionaries and State officials as are under priestly influence and sway. By the manner in which the present Government has chosen to interpret the Eleventh Article of the Constitution, restricting within the narrowest possible limits the liberty of conscience it confers, this fanatical intolerance has been stimulated to the highest pitch. It is satisfactory to know that the British Minister at Madrid has been instructed by Lord Derby to obtain on behalf of the Protestants the utmost possible concessions, and to urge an interpretation of the Constitution more in accordance with those principles of freedom which, in every other country of Europe, are now recognized as the