

the pulpit: "He is intensely in earnest with regard to the mission which he has made his life's work, and this earnestness very speedily possesses and influences his hearers. He is not, judging by his discourses of yesterday, a man of any more than ordinary ability as a speaker. He is slow in his delivery, sometimes even halting; his vocabulary is plain, his expression not always felicitous, and his sentences by no means ornate. He does not rise to any height of passionate utterance, carrying away with impetuous words both himself and his audience, but he speaks from a depth of conviction and with a plain, matter-of-fact assurance of truth which is more telling and more permanent in its effect than oratory. His manner in the pulpit has a resemblance to that of Moody, and his discourses are as full and forcible. He does not consider questions of doctrine or combat agnostic criticism. He presumes that he is talking to believers, who have latent in them a desire for a positive and comforting faith, which not only offers them a tangible happiness hereafter, but develops a higher and purer idea of life here, and this he presents to them in the form of personal salvation through acceptance of Christianity as found in the Gospels or the New Testament.

THE ALLIANCE CONFERENCE.

THE Christian community has a duty to discharge next week, which for the credit of Ontario we hope will be worthily performed. We refer to the Conference to be held on Friday the 10th inst., in Toronto, under the auspices of the Lord's Day Alliance. This Conference is called to meet at a critical time in the history of the Province. For a number of years there has been a persistent effort to break down the sanctity of the Lord's Day and to introduce here the Sunday of Continental Europe and of the United States. The effort seems to many to have been a concerted one by interested persons whose material interests are sought to be furthered by Sunday labor and traffic. Those most intimately concerned have been aided by a large number of good natured, humane people, who believe increased facilities of travelling on the Lord's Day would be a boon to the working classes, enabling them to enjoy the fresh air in the parks. Altogether the various interests and philanthropic views have effected an advance in public sentiment which cannot be quietly disregarded by sturdy Christians. Milk and water opinions are of all the most dangerous and our danger to day lies in our want of firm conviction and courage to express it, on the question of Sabbath Observance. It will soon be too late to take effective counteraction, but as yet there is a fighting chance. The Conference referred to is designed to stir up the friends of a better observance of the Sabbath, to their duty; to take steps for organizing the Province; and to place before the public, this question in its vital bearings. It is the duty of all interested in the Sabbath to bear a hand in making the Conference an unqualified success. On the day previous there will be held the annual business meeting of the Alliance and members can render great service by taking advantage of the business gathering in order to further the success of the Conference. Let there be a grand rally, a gathering which will place beyond doubt the importance and strength of the movement the Alliance so courageously represents. The fact of the Government having refused to take up the appeal in the Hamilton case, adds to the necessity of united and strenuous action by the Alliance and its supporters.

The programme arranged for the conference is

printed in full in another column. It will be seen that topics of great interest will be discussed. A feature will be the short practical discussions on the papers and resolutions. Among the speakers announced are such veteran speakers on the subject as Rev. Drs. Caven and Carman, Mr. R. L. Whyte, Hamilton, Mr. G. M. Macdonnell, Kingston, Mr. A. F. Wood ex-M.P. Madoc, who led for the Alliance in the Legislature in 1892, and Mr. S. H. Blake, Q.C.

AGITATION IN THE IRISH CHURCH.

A REGRETTABLE controversy is disturbing our sister Church of Ireland. It concerns no less a subject than the use of hymns and instrumental music in public worship sanctioned by the late General Assembly. One result has been a convention of elders opposed to the innovation, at which violent speeches were made, and extreme positions assumed. An effort will be made to upset the action of the Assembly. Meanwhile the agitation is becoming intense and is spreading. The "rights of the minority" will be ascertained by legal advice, and a committee was instructed to "obtain legal opinion as to how far the title to the property of the Church is affected by the action of the Assembly in relation to the Draft Hymnal and the repeal of the fundamental law of the Church on Psalmody, and also by the introduction of instrumental music into the worship of congregations in violation of the law of the Church prohibiting instruments of music in all the congregations under the care of the Assembly." It is stated that a memorial, signed by nearly nine hundred ruling elders, has been presented to the Irish General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in which the "Joint Hymnal" is furiously denounced as "a modern idol," containing "wretched doggerel," the hymns, moreover, being "doctrinally deficient" and written by "uninspired men."

THE HAMILTON APPEAL.

ON Saturday the Government organs intimated the refusal of the Ontario Government to carry the appeal in the Hamilton Sunday car case, to the Privy Council. This action is altogether disappointing; and the reasons vouchsafed are worse than inadequate. It is easy to read between the lines and interpret the refusal as the influence of a section of the electors of Hamilton on the Cabinet. One good and sufficient reason may be advanced to account for this conclusion. The Alliance had placed its facts and arguments in the hands of the Government before the legislation of last session. In the House the Hon. Mr. Hardy—who has all along treated the members of the Lord's Day Alliance, with the utmost courtesy and consideration—expressed the strong hope that the Alliance would test the law by an appeal to the higher courts. They did so with the result that contradictory and inconsistent opinions were elicited from the courts. They then approached the Government and pointed out what they had done in order to test the law. They said they had expended a large amount of money on what was a public and a Provincial question, and asked the Government to assume the final stage in the appeal. They would not probably have done so were it not that Mr. Hardy had expressed himself as he did in the Legislature, and were it not that the question was clearly one affecting the whole Province. Their request has been under consideration and has met with refusal on the grounds that a certain practice had been tolerated long ago in Hamilton and that the issue seemed doubtful. Here comes in Hamilton's influence, a fact worth while remembering when the Government's reply comes up for consideration