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Toronto, February 7, 1895.

Keeping the Sabbath.

IN a time of quiet, it is well to look ahead and provide for the coming storm. The sailor dries and mends his sails in the sunshine and calm, knowing that the winds will surely blow. The Commander disciplines his troops in times of peace. That there is no open assault on the Lord's Day such as that of the Street Railway in 1893, is something to be thankful for, but there are signs of a coming struggle, and there are always the insidious attacks which are, like a secret enemy, more dangerous than open encroachments. Every effort to counteract wrong views of the right observing of the Sabbath and to prepare for the day of battle when the foe leaves cover is to be welcomed and supported. It is a cause for thankfulness that the readers of religious thought in this country are fully alive to their responsibilities in this matter. In this age of organization the friends of the Sabbath must organize. This truth is admitted on all hands and last week a convention was held in Toronto to give it practical effect. At that gathering the necessity of having an active body to keep the pro-Sabbath forces scattered over the province in touch with each other, to direct effort to the best issue, and to keep the importance of Sabbath-keeping before the body politic was clearly recognized and a provincial organization was formed. The conference was fairly representative, many of the best men in the churches were interested participants in the proceedings, and there was a deep conviction regarding the line of action and the path of duty. It is gratifying to note that the Presbyterian Church was represented by some of her best men, men who wield influence over the people.

The name agreed upon for the organization was The Ontario Alliance for the Better Observance of the Lord's Day. The existence of the Alliance and its name ought to be widely known. Every Christian—man and woman—in the province should either be a member or at least give direct sympathy and prayer for its objects. If this were done, nothing could withstand its good influence on public life. There is abundance of work before the Alliance. The first great object will doubtless be to enlist the services of the ablest available writers and speakers so that the press, pulpit and platform may be used for the purpose of educating the people on the great truths of the Sabbath. The character of the day, its institution, our obligations with respect to it, and other phases of the subject ought to be placed in the most striking and attractive manner,

and placed often, before the public. The legislation affecting Sabbath Observance is in an unsatisfactory state. Much work remains to be accomplished in this direction. Christian men having a knowledge of the statutes can be employed usefully in bringing about improvements in this branch of the question. The proper understanding and enforcement of existing statutory safeguards will afford scope for sanctified effort; and there are many questions which suggest themselves too obvious for enumeration in a brief article.

There need be no lack of work, but the Alliance must prove its worthiness for the sacred task it has assumed, by unremitting activity, wise counsel, and able leadership. It has a right to ask the co-operation of the churches and the christian public and it will prove a lamentable condition of affairs should there not be a ready and enthusiastic response.

Encouraging Bible Study.

The American Institute of Sacred Literature offers prize examinations to students which seem admirably fitted to secure the purpose aimed at and which briefly is as follows. (1). To induce college students who contemplate entering the ministry, to obtain a working knowledge of Hebrew, New Testament Greek, thereby saving much time for purely exegetical work in the Seminary. (2). To induce colleges to add courses in Hebrew and New Testament Greek to their curricula by creating a demand for such work from the students. (3). To provide for all college students a special incentive for the study of the English Bible, (a) as a unique literature, (b) as the record of a unique history (c) as a text book of religious principles, (d) in relation to the influence which it has exerted in the history of the world. (4) To test the work now being done in these lines on the colleges of the United States and Canada, and if possible to gain facts with which to refute the current impression concerning the ignorance of the college student on Biblical subjects. (5). If possible to secure data which will help to convince the vast number of colleges in which no adequate Biblical instruction is offered, that it is important to add to their intellectual equipment the facilities for the best work on these lines. If the results of these examinations warrant their continuance the prizes which are \$50 and \$100 each will be offered annually.

Rev. H. S. Lunn's The Rev. Henry S. Lunn, M.D. is
Visit. announced to visit Toronto shortly, and the announcement has aroused considerable interest in the city. Dr. Lunn is known by his successful work as founder and editor of "The Review of the Churches," as the promoter of the famous Grindelwald conferences, and movements directed towards a closer relationship of the churches of Christendom.

War on Secret Societies. The Papal *Encyclical* has been fruitful of criticism. The position taken with respect to the press has evoked loud dissent on account of its intolerance; and not less objectionable, although more surprising, have been the clauses, against membership in such benevolent societies as the Oddfellows, Sons of Temperance, and Knights of Pythias. The order will be enforced, and if the remarks of the Archbishop of Cincinnati be taken as indicating the general action of the hierarchy, it will be enforced severely. The Archbishop said that "the fact that the reason for the