

Tract Society Department.

EDITED BY A. H. LEWIS. Agents of the American Sabbath Tract Society.

SUNDAY LAWS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

The constitutionality of the existing Sunday laws is being quite extensively discussed. The religious leaders who plead for Sunday laws as a means of moral and religious reform, are being driven to a very absurd position.

The following, from the Christian Observer, Louisville, Ky., is a specimen of the efforts of orthodoxy to avoid this dilemma, and also shows with what presumption men claim divine authority for a semi-pagan institution.

They enjoy nothing as a religious duty. They were not expected to teach religion, or to prescribe to the people what religious truth they should receive or reject; nor do they prescribe any form of religious worship.

They simply require a suspension of ordinary labors and amusements one day in seven, as an important means to conserve and promote the intelligence, the morals, and social order of the community, and serve to restrain the prevailing ignorance, disorders, and crimes, which abound in every land where a weekly Sabbath is unknown.

No Christian Church considers our Sunday laws an invasion of its province. Nor does our duty as a nation require us to enforce the holy observance of the weekly Sabbath—the first religious institute ordained by the Creator for man, and sanctioned by his example.

This is a complete dodge; for—1. These laws do prescribe on what day, and how far, men shall rest. 2. A particular form of religious worship is a distinct thing from the sabbatic rest. "The one may exist without the other."

In another part of the same article, the Observer compares Sunday laws to the ordinary sanitary and protective measures, which prevent "bone-billing" and "powder manufacture in the heart of a city."

Doctor Spear has summed up this paper in a masterly manner, in a question on "Private Judgment in Religion," in the Independent of June 30th, He says:

Him by offering a false sacrifice to atone for disobedience! Thus the church legislates for itself and its members, in the face of the plain commands of God.

It cannot be a matter of ignorance. What men study the Word of God to glean its teachings concerning the Sabbath with which to garnish Sunday, they can not be unaware of the fact, that Sunday is not the Sabbath.

They have talked long enough about systematic benevolence; now let them act, and show their faith by their works; and then will their Missionary and Tract Boards have the means for extending their arms to the evangelizing laborers.

Another straw. At the late session of the Synod of the Reformed Church in America, their Committee on the State of Religion reported, and the Synod adopted, the following item:

There has been laid before us a communication from the Congregational Conference of Ohio, transmitting their action upon the question of Sabbath observance, with special reference to the observance of religious employment and worldly amusements.

Resolved, That we reaffirm with a hearty and earnest belief the Divine institution of the Christian Sabbath as a day of rest from secular employment and worldly amusements.

Resolved, That while we do not insist upon the cessation of all facilities of communication between distant places on the Sabbath, and while we do not prohibit the sale of any necessary articles of daily life, we do insist that they shall reduce those opportunities of travel to the utmost limit consistent with the prosecution of works of necessity and mercy.

The first of these resolutions is noteworthy as claiming "the protection of the civil law" for the so-called Christian Sabbath. As justly remarked by the first issue in the reform of Sabbath observance and reform, we note with interest the position now being taken by the religious denominations, and other bodies, whose utterances upon this question are being heard often and with greater distinctness than ever before.

The second of the above resolutions is noteworthy as being a very cold comb of comfort to the people who compose the Congregational Conference of Ohio. The resolutions of this Ohio Conference upon the matter in question were very fiery in their rebuke of the "railway companies," and others, for the desecration of the Lord's day.

Resolved, That the pastors be enjoined to preach the Apostolic law, the law of the Church and the Christian conscience: "Let every one of you lay by him at home, whatsoever he may be prospered in."

Resolved, That the Board be instructed to furnish the families of the churches, through the missionary boxes, the amounts deposited in which shall be gathered in with the annual collection for the Board.

Board, and that the President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary, be that Committee.

Resolved, That the following orders: To A. H. Lewis, traveling expenses, \$117 07 To A. H. Lewis, balance, 250 00 To A. H. Lewis, balance, 250 00 To meet Committee, 200 00 To J. B. Clark, quarterly salary, 200 00

On motion, J. M. Todd was invited to lead in prayer for wisdom in maturing plans of future work, and for a new consecration of this Board to the already great and still increasing work of the Sabbath Reform; after which the Board adjourned to the call of the Chair.

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HOME NEWS
WEST VIRGINIA
July 20th, 1870.
The Fourth of July, the people had a day of enjoyment...

For, if the antitype correspond to the type, no Sabbath-breaker, Sunday-keeper, can become the bride, the Lamb's wife...

Prussia, and in that she has the sympathy of mankind. English intelligence is probably in possession of Prussia's leading strength...

There has been no such tranchant and at the same time sensible reduction in the expenditures of the Government as during the session of Congress just closed...

THE WAR IN EUROPE IS NOT unlike the war in America. It is a struggle for the interests of this country. It will of course create a demand for our bread-stuffs...

THE SABBATH RECORDER, JULY 21, 1870.
A MODERN JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.—The richest and most beautiful synagogue in the world is in process of erection at Turin...

Mr. Parson's paper mill at Lisbon, Me., being already injured, he applied to the same office for additional insurance of \$10,000...

One man was killed and three were badly injured by a collision on the Northern Railroad of New Hampshire...

WHAT ARE DR. J. WALKER'S CALIFORNIA VINEGAR BITTERS? THEY ARE NOT A VILE FANCY DRUG...

AGENTS WANTED FOR "WONDERS OF THE WORLD." Over One Thousand Illustrations. The latest and most attractive subscription book ever published...

ATTENTION!
Winter term of 1868-69, 129
Spring " " 1869-70, 65
Winter " " 1866-67, 132
Spring " " 1867, 55
Fall " " 1867-68, 101
Winter " " 1868-69, 81
Spring " " 1869, 87
Fall " " 1869-70, 84
Winter " " 1870, 24

