THE LORD'S DAY.

The Sunday Question in the Methodist Ecumenical Council—Practical Difficulties.

The Jews and Their Sabbath—How They Propose to Accommodate Themselves to the Age.

New York Methodist.

The discussion of the Sunday question in the Ecumenical Conference left all the practical difficulties untouched. First—It is not possible to draw the line between necessary and unnecessary Sunday work. Mothers, nurses and doctors must work hard on Sunday as on other days, and most ministers work hardest on that day and are paid for it. So far it is smooth sailing, but it is very uncertain sailing after that. It is often a question of private judgment whether or not a piece of labor is necessary, and judgments will differ. Going to an appointment to preach on Sunday and not on Saturday may be a question which (as to its necessity) nobody can decide in black—each case must stand on its merits. Going to the bedside of a dying friend on a Sunday train may raise at such a personal question. Second—that is true Sabbath observance presents another difficulty. In our youth it was regarded by many as a desecration of the Sabbath to shave one's face on Sunday; many similar questions there are. Christ walked in the fields on Sunday, but many teach that modern Christians should not do this. Third—The element of example raises difficulties. You take a street-car to church; a sinner takes the same street-car to a beer-garden. According to some authorities you are encouraging the sinner. We only indicate these groups of difficulties. The fact is that, taking the country through, the Sabbath is still a great fact, and, taking Christendom through, it is probably better observed than it was thirty years ago. The tendency of modern life, with its new forces—steam, types and electricity—tends to emphasize the difficulties we have mentioned. A great deal has to be left to personal conscience, because a rule cannot be framed to fit the facts. The Lord's day should be observed as a day of rest and worship, and no unnecessary work should be done on that day—that is the rule; the application is a personal duty, in the discharge of which conscience and the fear of God must guide Christians."

Sunday with the Jews.

Rabbi Kohler, of New York, recently said: "Business grows stronger than religious duty. The Saturday attendance upon the synagogues is now made up almost wholly of old people, who have retained the old-fashioned notion that religion should take precedence of business, and men who have retired from active life and lose no business advantages by attending the synagogue service on Saturday. This state of things is deplorable and discouraging to the Jewish rabbis, and for years an effort has been made to devise some plan which, first, should not wrench the feelings of the ultra orthodox of the church, and, second, which should ensure the majority of Jews to attend to their religious duties without neglecting business. So far all such efforts have proved useless." Rabbi Kohler says he would have services both Saturday and Sunday, and in speaking the subject says: "I have been led to a position by the convictions, that the impossible to draw all the Jews to the synagogue on Saturday, and that if it were possible to do so it would be impolitic. This may sounds to you to be a strange statement from a Jewish rabbi, but the more I study the question the more firmly I believe that any sincere attempt to enforce a strict observance of our Sabbath among the Jews would lead to a New York Ghetto, a narrow life apart from the rest of the world. This is not what intelligent Jews want. Our business men—if they cannot come to the synagogue on Sundays. Some of them are bankers and stand at their posts as a matter of necessity. Others are in the employ of Christians, and of Jews who recognize no religious exercises, and the fact that so many Jews pay no attention to the Sabbath encourages the others. To all those sheetgies I say, I ask if there is some reason in your excuses, why you come on Sunday to the synagogue and I will hold service for those who cannot come on Saturday.' Rabbi Kohler began this work last winter, and finds that it works well. "The world moves," he says, "and the Jewish Church with it."

Detroit Free Press, Wednesday.

To ascertain the sentiment of the leading men of this city, a *Free Press* reporter called on some of the most prominent and read-obtained interviews, and it may be stated here that, with one or two exceptions, he thought it was the Jewish Sabbath, he and others in their places of business, engaged in their usual avocations. One or two heads of firms had gone to the synagogue, giving their business to be transacted by the other members of the firm and their employes. No closed doors were encountered in any of the shops. Dr. H. Zvndorf, Rabbi of the Temple Beth El, was found just on the point of departure for Toledo to attend a general, and had not time in which to give his views and the reasons therefor. He briefly stated, however, that he should be opposed to a change of the Jewish day of worship. There could be no objection to an observance of Sunday also, but Saturday should take precedence in importance. A supplemental service might be held on Sunday, and he should favor it if asked by a congregation. In fact, the Sabbath-school in his church is already held on Sunday, and might well be supplemented by religious lectures. He could not tell what per cent. of the business houses of his congregation were in attendance at religious services Saturday morning. Sometimes more, sometimes less, according to circumstances. Among those interviewed were E. S. Heineman and Magnus Butzel, of the well known firm of Heineman, Butzel & Co. Both these gentlemen are very liberal in their views, and while deeming it singular that the Protestants should have adopted a day of worship that was created by a Papal bull, have no prejudice against the Sabbath that we current. They are believers in any religious observance, but think there is small cause for agitation of this Sunday question. Such questions regulate themselves, and do not call for action. In many cases the rabbis are becoming liberal in their views, and hold a service on Saturday for those who choose to observe that day, and on Sunday for those who, from any cause, cannot, or do not, attend on Sunday. Said Mr. Heineman: "I recognize that religion has a beneficial influence on everyone. We have in our employ Protestants and Catholics, as well as Jews. They are religious observers, and I should not hesitate to leave uncounted gold in their charge, and without fear of losing a dollar. Did I know that they were unbelievers, I should feel the same degree of security. It would be an injustice to my Christian clerks to close my store on Saturday. They would not be willing to work on Sunday, and they would thus be idle two days in the week. Moreover, there are customers on Sunday, while Saturday is the busiest day. We cannot afford to lose trade and then be idle on the following day. The rational, sensible course for any one to pursue is to do pretty much as do the people among whom one resides." The reporter conversed with several other prominent Jews, not one of whom was in accord with the New York movement; but for the reason that it is useless. One said: "Suppose out of 100 Jews assembled that eighty should vote to observe Sunday as a day for religious worship. Would the twenty acquiesce? Not at all. It would only lead to confusion, where harmony would otherwise dwell. It is a question that will regulate itself."

As a rule those who are known as English, German and French Jews are very tolerant in religious matters, and have largely adopted the customs of this country. Their children attend the public schools; their dead are buried in Washington Cemetery. Polish Jews are very orthodox, clinging tenaciously to the prejudices of their forefathers.

OUR ARKANSAS FRIENDS.

A coal mine has just been opened near Bellville.

T. R. Hagler has purchased the *Arkansas Daily Democrat*.

The DeArc *Citizen* appears again after a long suspension.

The little steamer Mill Boy is doing a good business in the upper Arkansas.

Captain C. C. Mitchell, of Chicot, Desha county, is visiting the Atlanta Exposition.

A young man named Stinnett lost an arm by being caught in a cotton gin at Dardanelle.

Captain Abram Weaver, a prominent citizen of Pocahontas, died in that town recently.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen gave a delightful ball in Little Rock Thursday night.

George Fears, a farm-laborer, was badly injured in a cotton gin on the Shaw place, near Ozark, last week.

The St. Louis and San Francisco road has definitely determined to bridge the Arkansas River at Van Buren.

What is the matter with the Arkansas City *Journal*? It is two or three weeks since a copy reached this office.

Little Rock has a heavy lumber, sash, door and shingle trade, shipping the articles to all points in the Southwest.

Berryville, Carroll county, has adopted the no-license plan and will be a temperance town, commencing with January next.

Mr. George W. Agee and Miss Lizzie Worthen were married in Little Rock Thursday night. Mr. Agee has many friends in Memphis.

Texas ships $2,000,000 worth of pecans annually. Arkansas could do nearly as well if so trifling a sum was thought worth bothering over.

Lem Smith died recently at Malvern of hydrophobia. He was bitten by a dog nearly a year ago and thought all danger had passed.

D. W. Brodie, merchant, of Alma, Crawford county, made an assignment of his assets last week to W. L. Taylor. Liabilities, $2500.

A Texas tough sold a drove of stolen ponies at Dardanelle the other day, and got out of town just in time to escape the officers who were in pursuit of him.

Arkansas City is looming up. The Eureka Oil Mills are ready for operation, and gas and water companies have been organized and will soon have works under way.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

General Santo Domingo Vila, Colombian Minister to France, Agrees with Secretary Blaine.

The Colombian Government Recognizes the Vital Interests of the United States in the Premises.

New York Tribune, 25th.

General Santo Domingo Vila, of the Republic of Colombia, who signed in behalf of his Government the protocol between it and the United States, was seen by a *Tribune* reporter at the Westminster Hotel to-day. The General was recently appointed Minister from Colombia to France, and is on his way to the latter country. In speaking of the Panama canal complications, he said:

"I have read carefully the dispatch of Secretary Blaine to Minister Lowell, and if my interpretation is correct, I perfectly agree with it, and think my Government will. It has been suggested that Mr. Blaine means to imply that the United States will not suffer an agreement between the European powers in regard to neutrality of the canal, but I take it that the Secretary of State means the United States Government will not look with favor on any such agreement to which it is not a party."

"What is the sentiment of your Government in regard to the matter?"

"The Colombian Government recognizes the vital interests which the United States have in any highway which may be constructed across the Isthmus, and how much more the States are interested than any European power can be. The sentiment of the Government, and of the people, is strongly in favor of this country, and we desire that the dominant influence in the affairs of the canal may be that of the United States. Our form of government and the commercial relations incline us to this country. Still, other nations are to be considered in the matter."

"Does not the Government of Colombia fear that the European powers may make their guaranty of neutrality of canal, if they should make one, a pretext for having a foothold on the Isthmus, and thus endanger liberties of Colombia, or at least take from it entirely the control of that part of the country?"

"No; we fear nothing of the sort, nor would we permit it. The Government of Colombia could say: 'This is our land, this is our territory; we will let whoever we please and whatever nation we see fit build a canal across the Isthmus of Panama, and will give no guaranty of any kind to any government.' But we recognize the fact that though we are an independent nation and have a right to regulate our affairs as best suits ourselves, yet there is a duty which we owe to other nations of consulting their wishes in affairs in which they are interested, and all the world is deeply interested in the Panama canal.

"Is the policy of the Colombian Government in accordance with the Monroe doctrine?"

"Yes. When I signed the protocol with this nation my Government declared itself as being in accord with the Monroe doctrine, and in favor of its application to the affairs of the Isthmus. We would wish that the stock in Canada be more largely held in the United States, and that the work was being prosecuted under the patronage of this country, rather than that of any European power."

"Why did the Colombian Government want to cancel the protocol?"

"The protocol was, of course, only a memorandum, an outline on which the treaty was to be based. The Government desired that it be abrogated, and a formal treaty substituted, in which all existing phases of the case should be attended to. We do not desire in any way to take away from the United States any right to protect her interests on the Isthmus. As I was leaving Bogota the new Minister from the United States was arriving, and I do not know what changes may have been made in the plans and policy of the Colombian Government since. My dispatches await me in Paris, where I should have been by this time had I not been delayed on the coast. I trust that the whole matter of the Panama canal will be settled in such a manner that the United States will have no cause to complain."

HENRY GUY CARLETON,

The Author of "Hermon," the New Tragedy to be Presented by John McCullough.

Great interest has been created in dramatic circles throughout the country through the purchase in Chicago last week by McCullough of a new tragedy, entitled *Hermon*. This has been especially the case, as the sum paid for the same was the largest ever known to have been expended for a similar production. McCullough gives $5000 for the tragedy, and also concedes an important royalty to the author. The latter, while a member of the Chicago Press Club, and for some little time previous identified with the Chicago press, is really, so far as former active newspaper experience is concerned, a Southern journalist. He was born at Fort Union, New Mexico, in 1853, while his father, General James H. Carleton, of the regular army, was aide-de-camp to General John Garland, who was young Carleton's mother's uncle. His father, General Carleton, who died in 1873, conducted, during the civil war, the noted campaign against the Apaches and Navajoes. Young Carleton was educated at the Jesuit College, Santa Clara, California, for a civil and mining engineer, but, having a penchant for literary work, drifted into journalism through an acquaintance formed with Dan O'Connel assistant city editor of the San Francisco *Chronicle*, in 1870, who secured Carleton's services to assist him in exploding a reigning San Francisco ghost sensation of that time. In 1871 he was admitted to the California Academy of Science, and secured considerable additional prominence through discussions in print with California scientists on the subject of earthquakes. In 1873 General Grant appointed him a Second Lieutenant in the Eighth United States Cavalry, and he served with that regiment in Texas and New Mexico until 1876, when he resigned, and immediately accepted an editorial position upon the New Orleans *Times*, which was retained for some years. In 1877 that paper offered gold medals, open for competition by all litterateurs of the South, for an essay and serious and comic poems. In this contest he carried away the medals for the essay and comic poem, and "fled" his competitors on the other. Again, on the death of Mercedes, Queen of Spain, Mr. Carleton composed a poem, entitled *Mercedes*, which the proprietors of the *Times* had engraved on parchment and forwarded to King Alphonso, for which the author received an autograph letter of acknowledgment and thanks. During the epidemic of 1878 he acted as the correspondent of the New York *Times* and Cincinnati *Commercial*, and at its close he secured the gold medal prize given by the New Orleans *Times*, from 221 competitors, for a poem best expressive of the gratitude of the South and the North for the aid and sympathy of the latter during the terrible scourge. Last year Mr. Carlton removed to Chicago, and secured an engagement upon the Chicago *Tribune*, which position was given up to begin work upon a tragedy, based upon an Egyptian theme; and for several months past he has been engaged upon this work, with the exceptionally successful results above noted.

The Bank of France.

New York Herald.

For some time past certain journals on this side of the Atlantic have been interesting their readers with sensational statements regarding the precarious condition of the Bank of France, one of the few financial institutions of the world in which people have hitherto placed unbounded confidence. The pretext for these articles was the diminution in its gold reserves occasioned by the disturbance of the balance of trade between the United States and France, the drain of gold caused by the emission of the new Italian loan, and other influences to which it is not necessary for us more particularly to allude. To such an extent, it is contended, have the metallic resources of the bank been weakened by these drains that in the event of a sudden panic they would become inadequate to the requirements of daily business. It is curious enough that while all this solicitude was being expressed by our financial quidnuncs regarding the safety of the great French institution, the people of France themselves seem to have been utterly unconscious of the perils that menaced it. They treated all these predictions regarding their time-honored institution with contempt, and even their ablest financial writer, M. Leroy Beaulieu—the most susceptible of journalists—did not feel it necessary to break a lance in its defense. The persistency of these attacks did not the less attract our attention, however, and in order to put an end to a crusade which might be fraught with injury to individual, and even to commercial interests at this side, we instructed our Paris correspondent to carefully investigate the matter, and to see how far the assertions of our pessimist confreres were based on fact.

J. K. Emmet will soon produce his new play, entitled *Fritz Among the Gipsies*, at Haverly's Fourteenth Street Theater.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Minnie Hauk says she don't like to be interviewed.

John McCullough has purchased a new play called *Mennon*.

The legitimate is doing exceptionally good business this season.

'Arry Sargent has fizzled out completely as a manager of "solids" shows.

Emily Melville's foot is serving the Colorado cities instead of the Abbott kin.

Mrs. Zelda Seguin Wallace has added a small son to her family circle at Indianapolis.

Dreams is the best piece of its kind on the road, but will not "catch on" well this year. It's day is over.

Haverly is to have a chain of theaters from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Charles and Gus Frohman will be with him.

Jacques Kruger, last year the "photographer" in *Dreams*, has signed a contract with Tony Pastor for his entire season.

Miss Julia A. Hunt, who went around the country with a "hum" company last year, is said to have made a hit in the new play of *Florine*.

F. C. Burnand's play of *The Colonel* was produced at Boston, October 15th. It is a decided success, and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bayley have received fine press notices.

After the defection of Charles Drew, the tenor, Alice Oates, at the last moment, abandoned her journey to Australia, and is once more east of the Rocky mountains.

Sarah Bernhardt's album contains the following: "When you hear it said that a man has made a good match, you may be nearly sure that his wife has made a bad one."

The *Dramatic News* is now a decent paper. The retirement of the blackguard, Byrne, has purified it, and it now refuses to publish the facts of the separation between Edwin Booth and his wife.

John McCullough concluded an engagement on Saturday, the 22d, at Haverly's New Chicago Theater, where he publicly announced from the stage that it was the largest engagement pecuniarily he had ever played.

"Michigan is very much excited over the new star, Colonel John L. Burleigh, who is playing 'Othello' in Detroit and other cities," says a dramatic paper. Probably Colonel Burleigh's performance is such as would excite most any kind of an audience.

Emily Melville has been on the stage since she was four years of age. She played with Edwin Forrest, and aside from her talents as a lyric *artiste*, she is a very capable leading lady, and held that position at the California Theater under Barrett and McCullough.

Recently at Columbus, Ohio, during the Jefferson company's engagement, that actor's large crayon picture as "Rob Acres" excited the ire of a stalwart countryman, who exclaimed: "I would like to knife that ——— scoundrel for shooting the best President we ever had." The information that it was not Guiteau's picture soothed the angry rural.

The New York *Mirror* publishes the following obituary advertisement: "John Carroll was a warm friend of the *Mirror*. A gentleman who was present on the day of his death says that the dying man had a copy of last week's issue beside him all day. He was too ill to read, but he seemed to take pleasure in looking at the pictures. He died with the paper rolled up in his hand."

A Western patron of the drama recently became interested in *Romeo and Juliet*, by the Fred Paulding company, and was much affected by the death of "Mercutio." But when "Paris," "Tybalt," "Romeo" and "Juliet," successively "passed in their checks," as he expressed it, he could bear the strain no longer. Rising in his seat he exclaimed: "H—ll! We'd better go—they're all dead."

It is related of George Clark, the celebrated negro minstrel, that, being examined as a witness, he was severely interrogated by the attorney, who wished to break down his evidence. "You are in the negro minstrel business, I believe?" inquired the lawyer. "Yes, sir," was the prompt reply. "Isn't that rather a low calling?" demanded the lawyer. "I don't know but what it is, sir," replied the minstrel; "but it is so much better than my father's that I am proud of it." "What was your father's calling?" "He was a lawyer," replied Clark, in a tone of regret that put the audience in a roar. The lawyer let him alone.

The New York Herald on Mississippi River Improvement.

The New York *Herald*, while claiming that the States bordering the Mississippi river ought to make the improvements they require, acknowledges the necessity and importance of the work, and says: "The Mississippi is the greatest waterway in the republic. It sweeps through ten States of the Union, which embrace nearly one-half of our population. The region through which it flows has been justly called the granary of the world. When it bursts its banks—an event which takes place to some extent every year—two and a half millions acres of sugar lands, seven millions acres of the finest cotton land in the world and one million acres of corn land are liable to be submerged. To protect these from danger and disaster is certainly a stupendous work, and would be productive of almost incalculable benefits. Every one, of course, will sympathize with the efforts and ambition of the people of the ten States which are so deeply interested in the undertaking. This great commercial awakening throughout the Mississippi Valley, especially the southern portion of it, is a cause for national congratulation. It shows that its inhabitants are sensible of the mighty future that is before them and are resolved to seize every opportunity to control the empire of trade which nature on river and mountain and plain has written as within their capacity. An indifference of these great natural advantages, the greatest perhaps ever given to a people in almost any age of the world, would argue a lamentable failure to comprehend magnificent opportunities."

THE CROPS.

Moulton (Ala.) *Advertiser*: "The fleecy staple is nearly all picked, and the fields are no longer white with cotton. It is said that there will not be corn enough in the Tuscumbia valley to do the people until the 1st of June."

Middleton (Tenn.) *News*: "The farmers have about gathered the productions of the earth of this year; and many of them appear to be wearing long faces in consequence. We had a slight frost on the 20th instant, the first of the season."

Montgomery *Advertiser*: "The fallacy of a top crop of cotton in the cotton belt seems to have been generally exploded. It has existed only in theory, and the yield has been very small after the first picking. In most localities it has amounted to nothing."

Chattanooga *Times*: "The past few weeks have put an entirely different aspect on the agricultural situation in this State. Rain and warm weather have brought up the grasses, wheat, oats and rye, insuring good winter grazing. The rains have also greatly benefited the cotton crop, though the assurance was given some weeks ago that it was beyond hope of resurrection."

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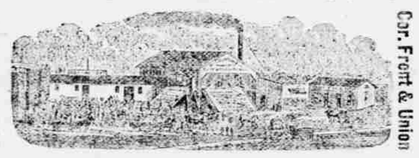

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