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SUNDAY ENFORCEMENT.

THE following is clipped from the *interior* of
Nov. 1: —

" The International Sunday Observance League, though only incorporated eight months ago, is making rapid strides toward giving us a peaceful Sabbath. Its object is to promote a more general and thorough observance of the law of God, as laid down in the fourth commandment; to the end that the desecration of the Christian Sabbath day, by unnecessary labor and amusements may be suppressed; that man may rest and be refreshed in body, mind, and soul; to maintain good morals and the peace and good order of society, and with this end in view, to establish State, provincial, and local organizations, whose object and purpose shall be to co-operate in the enactment and enforcement of laws for the suppression of all violations of the Sabbath day and to promote the highest and truest patriotism. The work of the league is intended to embrace all objects pertaining to good government, including among other things the election of persons of good moral character to public office. The league has adopted a constitution, so framed that all persons, irrespective of creed, desirous of promoting an improvement in public morality, may become members, including men or women, boys and girls, old and young. The league has commenced by injunction, the prosecution of the Chicago League Base-ball Club and other kindred clubs, to restrain them from playing Sunday games, and purposes to carry the case to a successful termination. It is also engaged upon other plans of reform which cannot yet be made public because not fully matured. The membership is constantly increasing, and it is the desire that this fall it may reach 50,000.

"If it really was the object of the above-named society " to promote the observance of the fourth commandment," and it would go to work in a Christian way to carry out its object, we could bid it God-speed ; but we well know that it is not laboring to promote the observance of the fourth commandment, but it is against it and in favor of a false Sabbath, and that the work, wrong in every feature, is being carried forward in an unchristian way. It is Sunday, the first day of the week, not the seventh-day Sabbath of the commandment, that this society is organized to uphold, and not by Scripture but by the civil law. When this day, unknown to the commandment, was first introduced into the church, was *not* as the Sabbath. Those who were instrumental in doing it held that the fourth commandment was abolished ; and on the ground that that commandment was no more, the holiday Sunday took its place. For hundreds of years after, no one thought of grounding its observance upon the fourth commandment. The Catholic, Greek, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Disciple, and other churches do not do so now. But in spite of all Scripture, history, facts, and common sense, this narrow puritanism still exists and endeavors to sustain the old pagan holiday with its thin veneering of Christian custom by the authority of the law of the Most High If this is not prostituting and perverting the law of God, it would be difficult to say what would be.

Another object of this league is "to promote true patriotism." The reader will notice that the two objects, Sunday observance and patriotism, are in the above article closely combined together. But what possible connection has Sunday-keeping with patriotism? One is the observance of a church festival, the other the love of country. Sunday-keeping and patriotism have no more natural affinity than baptism and patriotism. Many of our citizens go to church on the morning of Sunday and devote the remainder of the day to recreation and pleasure ; but they are true patriots, and in time of national peril give their blood for the defense of the country as freely as those who devote the whole day to worship. Then there are many thousands, in fact, the larger portion of the people of the country, who take the whole of Sunday for a holiday, and no citizens are more patriotic than they. There are others who observe the very day specified in the commandment, and who devote the first day of the week to honest labor for the support of those dependent upon them. Who can truthfully say that they are not as patriotic as any? Is a man's patriotism a thing to be

measured and determined by his respect for somebody's theology ? It would appear to be so from the statements we are considering, but we demur.

It will also be noticed that this "league " has other plans besides the intention to prosecute those who will not bow to their man-made **Sabbath. Perhaps they will prosecute those who do not believe in the Trinity.** Their, spiritual ancestors, the Puritans, considered the arrest and punishment of those who rejected this church dogma as something pleasing to the Deity. Our Unitarian friends should be on the alert. **The doctrine of the Trinity and the sacredness of Sunday are both orthodox plums of marvelous sweetness to the ministerial tooth.** If all may be compelled to receive one, there is no good reason why all may not be required to accept the other.

It is easily seen that this society is another agency to promote the religio-political crusade that is becoming so general all over our land, and which is hastening the fulfillment of the prophecy of Rev. 13 : 11-17. If a man must keep Sunday in order to be considered patriotic and a good citizen, then a non-Sunday observer, particularly if he keeps another day, may be accused as an enemy of the country—a dangerous character, to be dealt with by the State as his obstinacy deserves. To this time we are rapidly hastening. Can we not discern the signs of the times?

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