

FROM SATURDAY
OVER TO SUNDAY

Proposal to Transfer the Day of the Jewish Sabbath.

JEW'S DISCUSSING IT

**Rabbi Moses Gries Declares That
Neither the Jewish Sabbath Nor
Christian Sunday is of Divine
Origin—New York Views.**

New York Sun.

Jews all over the United States are discussing the latest proposal to transfer the Jewish Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Hitherto only one congregation, the Temple Beth Shalom in Chicago, has closed its doors on Saturday and observed Sunday alone as the Sabbath. Jewish rabbis in New York, Philadelphia, Louisville, Boston, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Cleveland, have held services on Saturday, Sunday and Monday last week. It is in Cleveland that an attempt is being made now to transfer the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Rabbi Meir J. Gries, who is 30 years old and a graduate of the Hebrew Union College in 1880, organized the Temple Beth Shalom in 1892, first, trying the change to Sunday, and followed it, on December 19th by a second and fuller plea for his idea. This is now being discussed by the congregation. He says that neither the Jewish Sabbath nor the Christian Sunday is divine in its origin. One of his lectures he expressed as follows: "The Sabbath is a human invention."

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As Rabbi Griss is a graduate of the Hebrew Union College, of which Dr. Isaac M. Wise was president, it is interesting to note what Dr. Wise's opinion on the subject. His opinion is expressed in an editorial in the American Israelite of December 1890, wherein he writes:

"A rabbi in Israel takes upon himself the solemn duty to teach, expound, promulgate, and preserve Judaism intact as handed down by his fathers and forefathers, as the history and literature of Israel presents and reflects it. Any argument upon religious or even scientific testimony, which would tend to weaken or destroy criticism, science, philosophy, or antagonizing the Judaism of 2,000 years of evidence is *cynico* and void for the purpose of its own end. It is the duty to satisfy what is just now called science, philosophy, history; his duty is to teach, expound, promulgate, and preserve Judaism. If he has no other duty than to say that he is an honest man to sleep down and out."

Opinions on the subject have been gathered for the Sun from a number of rabbis, both conservative and reformist in New York.

The Rev. Dr. H. Pereira Mendes of the Portuguese congregation, Shearith Israel,

"The gist of Rabbi Gries's sermon is that the Sabbath Day is not of divine origin, but of human origin. It is a human institution. Sabbath is any law of divine origin that is not one of the laws of morality, which are declared in the Bible to be so original that they have never been taught to mankind. If Dr. Gries considers that there has never been and never can be any spiritual or higher inference, which we call God, then he is in that condition of mind in which he is a man, and not a spiritual being. He, and doubtless, is a good man so far as morality goes and so far as sincerity goes, but he is not a spiritual being. He is not dealing with no unkind meaning. I mean simply that he is not conscious of the spiritual world around us, how a human soul can receive the spirit of God, and how a man from that higher source, when that soul has educated itself to the requisite condition, can speak to men have not passed away. They are present now, as every spiritual being and every spiritual woman is present."

"Such men as Moses and the prophets of old were in that condition of receptivity and the messages they received have come down to us. From the scientific standpoint revelation is merely the natural result, the ordinary, the everyday result of spiritual development. This may be a teaching not easily grasped by everybody.

"If we deny that there has been or can be any divine communication to men, then we are compelled to fall back on the old idea of Greek philosophy that morality is simply a question of conventionality. If this is so, our conventional morality is not of divine origin, then, neither is the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, or tenth. Society would be in a sorry condition if it entertained the idea that Dr. Gries seems to suggest that these commands are deserving of obedience only because society chooses to so regard them, and not because they rest upon a higher standard of authority."

"Mr. Green is in error as to his ideas of the Sabbath. The division of time into seven days is the natural result of any observation of the quarters of the moon, and it is the basis of all divine endorsement as the day for spiritual recreation or renewal and strengthening of spiritual powers. It is an error in fact to dare his hearers with the question of Sunday worship being wrong. He says that Sunday worship is wrong, for he himself worships on that day as an act of devotion. But if that Sunday should be clothed with Sabbath sanctity at the expense of the seventh-day Sabbath, and if it were so, would it amount to a denial of the divine origin of the seventh-day Sabbath, and logically to a denial of many of the commands of the Bible?"

"Dr. Gries is in error in forgetting that we Hebrews are the witnesses of God; that is, that we stand to witness that God has interferred, does interfere, and will always interfere in human affairs, and that He has not called humanity into existence and left it to guide itself. For its own

...dence, if history teaches us anything, would mean human ruin.

...er in putting so much stress upon the regrettable fact that the many men who believe that the law is the basis of morality are not Christians. All indicated men, without any exception, presumably make for righteousness; but, nevertheless, at every election any number of intelligent men vote for the wrong man. And they know it. I hope Dr. Price will pardon me if I say, and I say it with a heavy heart, that the greatest error in the whole matter is forgetting that religion, and especially the preaching of religion, is a question of the heart. It is not a question of the head and is not conscious or never has been conscious of the spiritual union possible between man and God. It is to appreciate the highest beauty, the highest power or force, and the highest privilege

every Jewish or Christian minister." The Rev. Emanuel said: "I do not share the view that Judaism stands or falls with the observance of the Sabbath. There are deeper, broader, and stronger than the observance of a day, and surely after that which is the life of the Jew, and which day is observed. Judaism has been and has to have stood its tests to which it was put in the long history of its history had it been built on the frailty of chance, it would have failed. I fully understand and admit the importance of the Sabbath, but I do not consider it the only thing that is in it. In the very soul and essence of my faith, I hold proper worship as, solid in itself, and I consider the observance of Judaism then the mere continuation of its ceremonies, and that day on which the Sabbath is observed is not called ought to be chosen as the day for such service as the Sabbath has hitherto

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The Rev. Dr. K. Kohler of Temple Beth-El said: "Any movement to abolish the traditional Sabbath leads away from Judaism. If people do not come on Sabbath morning, it is because they do not stamp them as violators of the Sabbath. The fourth commandment does not exactly say that we must worship God on the Sabbath any more than on any other day, nor that we should go for instruction on the Sabbath. Consequently there is no harm in having lectures and services on Sunday if the same have truly religious and a sensational and time-serving character. A

transfer of a historical Sabbath to Sunday by any congregation or rabbi is simply an impossibility—is disloyalty to Judaism and its history—is a concession made to the majority by a minority that has for 2,000 years stood for uncompromising monotheistic truth. The Sunday Sabbath in Berlin has been declared by the only reform congregation existing in Berlin to be a total failure. It is simply the personality which attracted and secures a temporary success. Dr. Grunwaldt is a very personal attraction for his Cleveland audience, but he can only, by the step he contemplates, undermine the position of rabbi and reform Judaism and the only power of authority upon which Judaism

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"Sunday lectures do not appeal to the religious sentiment of the Jew, therefore secular topics are preferred by lecturers and audiences. Sunday service bears, as a rule, the sort of non-committal character as regards religion to suit a non-Christian audience as well. A preoccupation of the civil day of rest leads them already not so much to religious but to secular amusements, to the 'Ante-bellum' and Christmas festivals, instead of the Passover, Shabbath and Chanukkah, and consequently the Jewish New Year's Day

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Christian Sunday-Schools is maintained as the nucleus of a popular effort. No union accepted by immigrants, Catholics, Russians or others could change the basic story. Whatever the future may bring.

in this country and some others the Jews ultimately cannot keep the balance as

an opportunity to attend the service. The church is open on this day for reading and instruction to all who are willing to come. We never slacken our efforts to further the spiritual growth of the people by prayer and instruction, for that we advance the are of Judaism.

An appeal to a transfer of the Sabbath to the day of the week, will I favor. The additional service and lectures on Sunday for the benefit of those who are usually prevented from attending divine worship on the Sabbath. The additional services and lectures that are held in the Emanuel-MI have been instituted for purpose and have answered the requirements of the community. The attendance has not decreased because of the institution of the additional Sunday services.

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ing, bringing to it his share of devotion. The movement of Baltimore Rabbi Tobias Schanbacher of Baltimore to the congregation of Cleveland, O. might be said, Dr. Gries, for the transferring Saturday worship to Sunday, is a result of the peculiar conditions prevailing in that city. Having lived in Cleveland for some time, Dr. Gries said, "I am personally acquainted with these conditions. There is warrant for the continuance of a Saturday service in this congregation. Out of a membership of nearly 600 families, there are from 100 to 150 families with fifteen and two or three men in attendance. Some of the couples that do not participate attend themselves to any particular day of the week. When the Sabbath is observed, they naturally at-

MINERALS OF UNITED STATES.

duction of This Country During the
Year 1897.

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Expenditure. The Engineering and Mining Journal's annual survey of the total mineral production of the United States the year 1967 amounted to \$762,061,000, or 10.5% more than the \$689,000,000 for non-metals. These figures show a total increase of \$18,200,000, or 2.6%, over the 1966 figures. As was coal, the total being 194,500,000 tons, or 8,000,000 tons more than in 1966. The total value of the iron production was \$491,000,000, the largest ever reported. The expenditure for the production of the 7,715,297 pounds of 1967 gold production reached \$35,000,000, or 10.5% more than the \$31,100,000 for 1966. The United States slightly exceeds the Transvaal and still holds the first place as a producing country. The silver content of the 1967 production was 117,000 ounces, or 12,500 more than the 104,500 of 1966. The quantities of the important metals, such as lead and zinc, are large, but not the total gold production of the world 1967 amounted to \$218,391,620, showing increase of \$29,419,498 over that of

The United States has not only been the richest producer of gold, iron, steel, copper and zinc, but has also been a net exporter, sending abroad 128,500 tons of copper, \$55,000,000 worth of silver, nearly 300,000 tons of pig iron, and a large quantity of steel and manufactured iron products. The United States nearly equals

nearly all the items of mineral production of minor importance there was an increase during 1897.

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