

ment made. May the Lord of the Sabbath bless our efforts with eminent success!

Mr. Editor, yours ever,

ROBERT BURNS.

Circular from the Committee of the Kingston Sabbath Reformation Society.

REVEREND SIR:

Scarcely in modern times has there been such a hearty and unequivocal demonstration of public sentiment, among all classes of the community, in favor of any great religious or moral movement, as is now witnessed in Great Britain and Ireland, in regard to the sacred observance of the Lord's Day; and it is matter of congratulation that the spirit which has pervaded the masses in the mother country, and influenced them so powerfully during the agitation of the Sabbath question in connection with the Post-Office, begins at length to manifest itself in this vast and important Province.

It is confidently believed that in Great Britain the entire abolition of Post-Office labor on the Lord's Day must be conceded to the prayer of a far greater number of persons than signed the petitions in favor of the Penny Postage in 1839, and which will, it is anticipated, prior to Lord Ashley's motion being brought before Parliament, exceed in numbers any demonstration ever made to the Imperial Legislature, and representing the flower of the morality, intelligence, and wealth, of the British Empire.

In corroboration of the opinion of the practicability of the entire cessation of Post-office labor on the Sabbath, it may be sufficient to refer to the following declaration of the Postmaster-General of the United Kingdom to a deputation which waited upon him at London on the 21st March last—*"That neither he nor any member of her Majesty's Government was in favor, as a matter of preference, of Sunday Labor in the Post-Office; that the proposed arrangement for the total cessation of all postal labor on Sunday was perfectly practicable; and that the authorities were prepared to carry such arrangement into effect if it appeared that the country generally desired it."*

Deeply convinced of the importance of seizing the present crisis for a similar and simultaneous movement throughout the cities, towns, and villages of Canada, on the transference of the Provincial Postal arrangements from the jurisdiction of the Imperial to that of the Provincial Legislature; and having in view the probability of these arrangements being brought under the consideration of Parliament at the approaching Session; the Committee of the Kingston Sabbath Reformation Society most earnestly entreat your zealous co-operation, in bringing this great moral and religious question prominently, and at an early period before the notice of your friends, with a view to elicit a decided expression of public sentiment thereon, and to obtain the adoption of Petitions to both branches of the Legislature for the complete abolition of Post-Office labor on the Lord's Day.

The Committee would further express their willingness to forward any such Petitions to the Legislature as may be transmitted to them; and beg to refer to the subjoined copy of a Memorial unanimously adopted at a Public Meeting of the inhabitants of Kingston, held in the City Hall on the 25th instant—His Worship the Mayor in the Chair.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada in Parliament assembled.

The Memorial of the undersigned inhabitants of the City of Kingston, unanimously adopted at a Public Meeting convened in the City Hall on Thursday the 25th day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty—Humbly Sheweth:

That they regard the Sabbath as an Institution sacred with the seal of Divine authority, and

designed and fitted to promote the best interests of the human family. That they consider every violation of this sacred and salutary institution as in the highest degree displeasing to its great author, and detrimental to the public welfare. That they contemplate with deep regret the extensive and legalized system of Sabbath desecration caused by the transmission of her Majesty's Mail, the opening of Post-Offices, and delivery of Letters, on the Lord's Day. That they understand that by a recent enactment, the oversight of the Postal arrangements has been transferred from the jurisdiction of the Imperial to that of the Provincial authorities.

The undersigned, therefore, humbly and respectfully memorialize your Honorable House that on taking the premises into your serious consideration, you will adopt such measures as to your wisdom may seem most expedient, for the abolition of all labor on the Lord's Day in the above important department of the public service.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray

Signed, by order of the Committee.

NEIL McLEOD,

Recording Secretary Kingston Sab. Ref. Soc'y.

ROBT. F. BURNS,

Corresponding Secretary.

COMMITTEE ROOMS.

Kingston, 30th April, 1850.

POST OFFICE—SABBATH DESECRATION.—We have already adverted to the desecration of the Sabbath by the Post Office arrangements in Halifax, and we are delighted to observe a movement for the abolition of all Post Office labour on this hallowed day, on the part of the inhabitants of Charlottetown, P. E. I. A petition has been presented to Sir Donald Campbell, the Governor, signed by a large number of the respectable and influential of that community, praying him to put a stop to this species of Sabbath Desecration. It is well known to our readers that the Mail for Pictou leaves Halifax late on Saturday afternoon, and arrives on Sabbath morning, in plenty of time for the delivery of the Letters and Newspapers before Public Worship. But this is not all—The mail coach no sooner arrives at Pictou than the steamer leaves for the Island, thereby subjecting the inhabitants of Charlottetown to the same moral nuisance. How easily might all this be obviated, by the authorities making a small alteration in the time of the departure of the Mail from Halifax! And now is the time for the Christian public in this Province to be at the post of duty. So soon as the uniform rate of postage comes into operation, a change will, in all probability be effected in all the Post Office arrangements, and petitions should be poured into the Governor in Council praying that the arrangements may be such as shall secure the due observance of the Sabbath.—*Pres. Witnesses.*

[FOR THE RECORD.]

THE POISON OF THE PRESS.

"Give attendance to reading." The admonition of the venerable Apostle to Timothy his beloved son in the faith, has been written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the world have come. One way out of the many, in which it may be complied with is by giving the more earnest heed to what we read. "Of making of books there is no end." Much study consequently is requisite in making a selection for personal use. If this be not exercised, the mind may become like a confused lumber-room instead of a well-ordered library; or, it may be, the cage of every unclean beast, rather than a chamber swept and garnished for the good spirit to dwell in.

The first library of which any authentic historical account has come down to us, was founded by Osymandias one of the monarchs of Egypt. Over it he caused this inscription to be set—

"MEDICINE FOR THE MIND."

We fear that to not a little of the literature of the present day might be affixed with greater aptness and accuracy, the label which prudent apothecaries are wont to inscribe on certain of the jars on their shelves—"Poison."

"The press sends forth from her prolific resources, ministering spirits, "with healing under their wings"—but she is no less active in sending forth destroying angels, the very breath of whose nostrils is like "the pestilence that walketh in darkness."

To this latter class belong novels, the tone and tendency of which, generally speaking, are exceedingly pernicious. We say "generally speaking," for we cannot lose sight of the fact, that there are some highly honorable exceptions. We are free to admit the existence of a select few whose matter and mould entitle them (partially at least) to be excluded from the range of this sweeping denunciation.

In regard however to the vast majority of the members of this class, it may be affirmed "their end is destruction." Our voice therefore to the sons of men in general and to those whose countenances glisten with the dew of their youth in particular, would be, "Cease, my son from the instruction that causeth thee to err from the words of knowledge."

This advice as to abstinence from such noxious productions we ground on the following considerations.

1. *They enervate the Mind*—Man in this probationary state is a child. He consequently needs to pass through an educational process, "to be under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father." His mind must be subjected to a severe though salutary discipline, else, he is liable to become either a dunce or a devil. Works of fiction from their very nature minister to the imagination rather than to the intellect. This is furnished while that is fed. Hardly any mental effort worth speaking of, requires to be put forth in order to their comprehension.

The honey in which the poison is dexterously secreted, drops almost spontaneously into the gaping mouth. Thus whilst one leading part of the human constitution is pampered—another, is paralyzed. The spiritual mechanism accumulates rust from positive inaction—and the wheels cannot fail (like the chariots of Pharaoh) to "drive heavily."

The mind is emasculated—its vigor and vitality are exhausted. Instead of growing up to the measure of the stature of that relative perfection of which it is capable, it becomes at once dwarfish and deformed.

2. *They undermine the Morals.*—In not a few of the productions belonging to this class, vice is all but deified, and virtue decried—the one is set on a gorgeous pinnacle, to be hailed—the other, on a gloomy pillory, to be hooted at. Villains are lifted to the level of heroes—deeds that deserve unmitigated execration are crowned with glory and honor. Sins the most gross and glaring are regarded as mere innocent infirmities. Obscenity stalks abroad clad in purple and fine linen—enveloped in a mantle of bewitching rhetoric, or enshrined in a setting of fascinating song. Piety, is represented as prudery,—Religion, as embodied in fools or fanatics—whatsoever things are lovely, honest and of good report, as all very well for "old women." In this way Satan changes himself into an angel of light—and multitudes, multitudes falling into his snare are taken captive by him at his will. Impeceptibly the foundations of morality are sapped,—and the pernicious tarcs which the enemy hath planted, vegetate on the soil of the heart.