

sporting with gun, and fishing-rod at safe distance from a constable, and pleasure-excursioning by land and water, and pitiful display of tasteless overdressing, and gadding about, and tattling, propagating scandal and folly, which all are apparent enough, it is hard for one who would cherish a decent respect and good hopes for fellow men and women to repel the saddest feelings.

Violation of the Sabbath law of another kind, frequently and long complained of, still continues, which, while deserving our strongest reprobation, is less screened from remonstrance, and more likely to be abated by vigorous action, on the part of friends of the Sabbath. We refer to the sailing of the Canadian Inland Navigation Company's, and other steamers on the Lord's day. It is but fair to state that the vessels of the company mentioned are not despatched from Montreal to Hamilton, and vice versa, on any but an ordinary week day; but, prosecuting the voyage commenced on Saturday, they call at and depart from such ports as Prescott; Brockville, Gananoque, and Kingston twice, and Toronto once, every Lord's day. Connected with this is the keeping open of the St. Lawrence and Rideau Canals on the sacred day. And there may be mentioned here also the not infrequent sending on, in Sabbath hours, of belated Freight-trains to their destination on the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways.

This traffic of course requires the constrained or willing labor of a great number of persons, such as the officers and crews of the steamers, lock-keepers and their men on the canals, and mobile and stationary employes on the Railway. Upon these, and upon their families to some extent, this employment amounts to an enforced deprivation of Sabbath rest and privilege; and, as an individual has no right to injure another or deprive him of food, for "we are to love our neighbors as ourselves," so a nation, a corporation, and a company ought to follow the same rule of christian principle. Then, in addition to that wrong done to many, there are so many more to whom these practices furnish facilities for, and even invite to Sabbath profanation, which is yearly leading many young persons to dissipation, ungodliness and ruin.

Last year the Kingston Reformation Society petitioned the three branches of the Legislature, and received acknowledgments; but, owing to the all-engrossing attention of Parliament to Confederation and other pressing political matters, nothing has been done to effect the object desired—"the closing, and keeping closed all the canals of the Province on the Lord's day, and thereby releasing many of Her Majesty's subjects from a cruel grievance they have too long laboured under." The Society intends to petition for the same object at the next session of Parliament, "being convinced more and more that it is the duty of Government to secure to all the right of the full and free enjoyment of the Sabbath."

The Synod will be pleased to learn that in the course of the past year a Sabbath Association has been formed in Montreal, which, among other endeavors of local import has already issued an excellent appeal to the general public, unequivocally asserting "faith in the divine institution and obligatory character of the Holy-day."

It is to be regretted that, so far as is known to the Committee, only two organizations of this kind exist in the country; for it would be hard to show that either christian Missions or the circulation of the Bible required more, in the present day, the help which comes from the concentrated wisdom and energy of associated christian men, than does the preservation of a holy Sabbath.

An occurrence has recently taken place in a Church Court in Scotland to which reference could hardly be omitted in a Report like this.