

## FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

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The Committee of the Nova Scotia Sabbath Alliance, in laying their first annual report before the friends of the Sabbath, generally throughout the Province, desire to express their thankfulness to the Lord of the Sabbath for any measure of success that may have attended their efforts, as well as for that Catholic and brotherly spirit that has all along characterized their proceedings.

The object contemplated in the formation of this Alliance, was the humble desire to promote, by the blessing of God, the due observance of the Lord's day. It was considered by not a few of the friends of the Sabbath in this community, that low and latitudinarian views regarding its moral obligation and its consequent sanctification were on the increase amongst various ranks; that attendance on the public means of divine grace on that hallowed day, was not at all proportioned to the number of the Protestant population, and that several forms of Sabbath desecration existed in the midst of us; and, for the purpose of strengthening each other's hands in elevating the standard of Sabbath observance, and in suppressing any species of Sabbath desecration that might exist, it was resolved to form an Association composed of all the sections of Evangelical Protestantism amongst us, encouraged by the many tokens of the divine presence and blessing that had attended the operations of similar associations in Great Britain and America.

This association, taking for its basis the fourth commandment of the Moral law, has now been in existence for upwards of a year; and although the plain and practical application of this commandment may have excited prejudices in some, and opposition in others against this movement, and although not nearly the amount of good has been effected that was anticipated by others, the committee feel amply warranted to persevere, in the firm conviction that God and the Bible are on their side, and that He who is so jealous of the honours of His own day, will not forget the feeblest efforts made to uphold these honours.

One of the earliest matters that engaged the attention of the committee, was the obtaining of statistical information regarding any forms of Sabbath desecration, that might prevail in and around Halifax, as well as in other parts of the Province. A sub-committee was appointed for this purpose from whose report it appeared that no small amount of Sabbath desecration existed, in connection with the Instrumental Music in marching the troops to the Garrison Chapel on the morning of that day, in connection with the then existing Postal arrangements, in connection with the sale of Spirituous Liquors and various articles of food, in connection with games, sinful recreations and amusements, &c.