

In reference to the profanation of the Lord's day in other parts of the church, and specially the increase of it principally exhibited in the form of pleasure-seeking on that day in the more central localities, your committee can scarcely do better than quote with earnest recommendation the language of their last report, viz.: "Those pastors situated in towns and centres of population, or in districts occupied by different religious denominations, would do well to direct special attention to that form of Sabbath desecration which consists of pleasure-seeking and social visiting on the Lord's day." Such pastors have certainly a loud call in Providence to act in the manner recommended. At least annual discourses on Sabbath observance as formerly recommended, your committee trust are neglected by any minister. But those pastors who witness the increase referred to, should consider well the direction of the prophet, "Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." If an occasional discourse and similar efforts in the same direction are not effectual, then such efforts should be more frequently and zealously employed; and more fervent prayer offered that the divine blessing may accompany the exertions used.

Encouraging features are presented in the fact that in Halifax an increasing number of shop-keepers and employers give their "hands" a half holiday on Saturday, while the Young Men's Christian Association and other agencies distribute a large amount of religious literature in necessitous districts on the Lord's day. This is cheering intelligence; and such efforts ought to be encouraged. This church should also be stimulated in this part of its work by the example and success of other and larger sections of the church of Christ. Were it not that the Spirit of the Lord, operating by the instrumentality of the church, is lifting up a standard against this enemy, it would rush like a flood over the Christian world. Acting as others have successfully done, and as we doubtless all are convinced we ought to do, we may expect that God will bless us, and that many in our part of the world, through our instrumentality, will fear Him.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT LAIRD, *Con.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF COLPORTAGE.

To the Rev'd. the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces:

REV'D. FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—

Your committee of colportage for the southern and south-western sections of the

church, according to the new arrangement made last year, have been carrying on the work according to their ability with the limited means at their disposal. Having advertised for some new labourers in this extensive field, Isaiah Smith, Esq., of Maitland, an Elder in the Presbyterian Church there, was the first to offer his services, and was engaged accordingly. He laboured mostly in the counties of Hants and Colchester, and was very diligent and successful, especially in the sale and circulation of Bibles and Testaments, notwithstanding all that had been previously disposed of in these localities. This is so far encouraging, that though even good, religious books may sometimes have dull sale, yet there is always demand for the pure Word of God, especially when accompanied with the Psalms and Paraphrases. While in this field he circulated about 400 Bibles and Testaments, besides a fair portion of the publications of the Presbyterian Board; also Bible reports and missionary intelligence, often where these things are comparatively little known.

Wm. Sutherland, of Lower Stewiacke, was the next new hand engaged and sent into the field. He came also well recommended as a fit and proper person for this service, in the opinion of his minister and the elder of his district. And so he has proved as far as his constitution permitted; but as he is not very rugged, he has not been able to attend to the work continuously. We thought once of sending him to Bermuda for the winter, thinking it might improve his health, and also open up, and at the same time, supply a new section of our extensive field of operation. But after seeking and obtaining information as to the necessity and propriety of sending a colporteur into that section of the church, we were led to believe that it would be inexpedient under present circumstances to commence operations in so distant and expensive a field of labour especially as the destitution of the place was by no means clamant when compared with many others nearer our centre of operations. Whenever his health permitted, therefore, he has been employed nearer home, sometimes at the gold diggings and other mining districts, for which he has received about nine hundred volumes; about two thirds of which were Bibles and Testaments, and all of which have been disposed of excepting his present very limited supply.

Mr. Duncan R. Crocket, also of the Middle River of Pictou, a grandson and namesake of the late Revd. Duncan Ross, having offered his services, we were led to believe might be useful, and therefore he has been supplied and commissioned on trial. We hope that he will be active and