

Railway Company (of which he was also chief) which had been incurred through his own misconduct. The exhibition would vastly increase the Sunday traffic, and through the profits thereby accruing, the affairs of the railroad would be put to rights. That was the calculation. But like many other clever devices of wicked men it failed. Soon the day of reckoning came, and the awful downfall of the prime mover in this plan of Sabbath desecration was the consequence. Then followed the *regime* of the present managers. They sought to accomplish the same end for the exhibition, but in a somewhat different and as they thought less objectionable way. They would institute appropriate instructive services on the Lord's day. The exhibition in their hands would thus become a sanctuary. The visitors might walk around this new Zion and all the towers thereof, and look upon the rich collections which the building contains, but what of that, so long as they had the opportunity of listening to a portion of "The Messiah," or drinking in the words of some preacher. The managers might well say to themselves, there can be nothing wrong in opening these grounds when we have the moral and religious education of the masses in view.

But the Christian community were up in arms. Their petitions and the warnings which they had presented against the opening on Sabbath had been disregarded by the previous set of managers. Would they now submit when it had been proved so clearly that the whole proceeding was to make money, and that the managers did not care a straw for the working man? While we may well mourn over such attempts to desecrate the Sabbath, it is yet seen how deeply rooted that one day is in the hearts of the people. Working men themselves see the danger of allowing their would-be-friends to make things pleasant and easy for them on the day of rest. They feel that license in regard to the Sabbath does not mean liberty, that it does not aim at their best interests, and that it is really the insertion of the thin edge of the wedge that may result in depriving them altogether of the one day in seven. What did the French revolutionists mean when they appointed every tenth day as a day of rest. Their action was simply intended to rob the toilers of sixteen days of rest in the year! Those who are most interested in the weekly rest can see through all this at a glance. They know that it signifies seven days' work for six days' pay, but also a serious loss of bodily strength, of mental vigor, of home comforts, and of personal liberty. That is the view the working man soon learns to take of the inroads which his professed friends propose to make on his behalf.

The action of the Christian community of Philadelphia has probably taken by surprise those who advocated the opening of the Exhibition on the Lord's day. They calculated that they had the whole matter in their own hands, and there were none to say nay. But they were mistaken. There is in every Christian country and city a large body of persons who are ready to die if need be for the Sabbath. They are jealous of the least encroachment of the world upon that day. They are confident, if faithful to their consciences and true to their Lord, that the Sabbath

will ever be upheld, and that for its opponents there is nothing but discomfiture and ruin. The Sabbath is Divine, and therefore it will stand long after the earthly appointments of men have passed into oblivion. While, however, this is true, we should not forget that the advocates of Sabbath license are a large and determined body, that they are ever on the alert, and that failure to accomplish their object to-day only acts as an incentive to the renewal of their efforts on the morrow. The friends of the Sabbath should be ever on the alert. They should watch the movements of the enemy. They should be armed against every attack. They should be ready for every emergency. And while looking well to their armor and weapons, and ever being watchful against surprise, let Christians remember that they will more efficiently promote the cause of the Sabbath by carefully abstaining from every word and act that may be inconsistent with that day, and by using it for the high and spiritual purposes for which it has been set apart. Let us do everything in our power to prevent the opening of museums, libraries, exhibitions, on the Lord's day, as also the running of railroads, and steamboats, and carriages, for mere pleasure; but let us remember that by not forgetting the assembling of ourselves together and by spending the Sabbath in resting our bodies and refreshing our souls, we are taking the surest way of preserving the Sabbath as a divine institution amongst us.

FRUITFULNESS THE TEST OF THANKFULNESS.

WE have recently observed a Day of Thanksgiving for the blessings of the harvest. It is well to examine ourselves. Are we in reality thankful? This question resolves itself into another, a test question. It is: are we fruitful? For fruitfulness is the test and measure of thankfulness. This is self-evident. For what purpose does God bestow His abundant gifts? To what end is it that by His divine chemistry He transforms the baser things of the earth into the Beauty of the ripened fruit, the fatness of the corn and wine? Why does he so bountifully minister to the supply of our bodily wants and bestow upon us the abundance which we to-day enjoy? Surely not to prolong a life spent in rebellion and ingratitude; not merely that we may eat and drink and die. The life which is lived for self is a perverted life. Everything has a purpose beyond itself, and tends upward and onward. So the earthly elements and influences are garnered in the ripened fruit and grain. By these the bodily life is nourished and strengthened, and the bodily life is in turn to minister to the spiritual and the eternal. In man God's gifts are to return to the giver; the life nourished by them is to be rendered back to the Source and Giver of all in loving and grateful service.

The divine Husbandman seeketh fruit. This is the object of all His dealings with us, alike in the sunshine of prosperity and in the storm and discipline of life's darker hours. Our growth in grace and goodness, our conformity to the likeness of Christ, our perfected manhood, our love and allegiance, these are the fruits which alone can satisfy Him

and prove that we have not received His gifts in vain. It is but mockery for the prodigal talk of being grateful while he refuses to return; and the first-fruits of the constraining influence of the divine goodness in the hearts of sinful men must be manifested in repentance.

IN MEMORIAM.

On the sixth day of this November, passed into her eternal rest Mrs. John Elliott, of Melville Church, Scarborough. She had been ailing during most of the summer with a disease that brought her near to the grave a few years ago, but from which at that time she recovered. Gradually the same disease insinuated itself and so weakened her system that for weeks before she breathed her last all hope of her recovery was abandoned. She was faithful and devoted to the best interests of the Presbyterian congregation at Highland Creek. She liberally gave her means, her time, and talents for the cause of Christ. For many years she was organist of the congregation, and devoted much of her time to the training of the young of the congregation in instrumental and vocal music. Her home was always open to the servants of Christ. Ministers, officers and people of the Presbyterian church always were welcomed. Mr. Geo. Stephenson, father of the subject of this sketch, came to this country many years ago, and for a long time was engaged in the lumber business at Highland Creek. In those times when the roads were bad and travelling difficult he always placed the services of his horses and himself at the disposal of the ministers who had to preach at the different stations in the township. When no others were willing to go, he was always ready. He used to tell the great dangers from swollen creeks and broken bridges he escaped when driving Dr. Willis or the late Dr. Burns to Knox Church, Scarborough. Mr. Stephenson's family was, mainly, the instrument of building Melville Church. It was built on their property and they were anxious for its prosperity.

The Church at Highland Creek suffered loss also by the death of Mrs. Thomas Dixon who passed away recently in the prime of life. Though ill for some weeks it was not thought she was in any special danger, but death came suddenly and she entered into the rest of heaven in peace and assurance. So sudden was her death that her brother, Mr. Carlaw, of Toronto, who left her in the morning, as was supposed, free from immediate danger, was unable to reach Port Union in the afternoon to see her alive. Her spirit in the interval had gone home to God. She was a woman of large benevolence. She freely gave of her ample means for every good cause. Her heart was deeply interested in every movement for the progress of the Kingdom of Christ. Both Mrs. Elliot and Mrs. Dixon were warmly attached to the Highland Creek congregation. They have both ceased from their labours and their works do follow them.

They leave a large circle of mourning friends and relatives. May the church find others to rise up and fill their places and be inspired with their spirit. May we all learn to watch and work and play, for we know not when the Son of Man cometh.—G. B.

Brockville, Nov. 27th, 1877.

THE congregation at Kirkfield are on the eve of erecting a comfortable and commodious manse for their popular pastor, Rev. D. D. McLennan. Situated on a gentle elevation in the neighborhood of the village it will constitute no mean ornament to that prosperous place.

WE are requested to say that Rev. Thomas Gales, Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, has removed to this city, for the purpose of carrying on the work of the Alliance under the immediate supervision and direction of the Executive Committee. Correspondents will please address, REV. THOS. GALES, Box 1038, Toronto.

ALREADY a number of agents have reported progress, and many more will commence operations this week. To all we would say: Lose no time, but push the work vigorously. A couple of days' earnest effort now is worth more than a week's hard work later on in the season. Besides, new subscribers get the paper free for the balance of the year, and this is an inducement for them to subscribe now, if called upon by an agent. Carefully read rules at foot of premium list.