

done by the Church in Western Ontario. There will be many present whose memories can carry them back to former years when the wooden structure did duty for the handsome stone edifice, and the struggling mission station for the now prosperous congregation. The advance of the Church has kept pace with the development and needs of the country and therein has proved the breadth of view and the strength of purpose which characterized the revered fathers of the Church in these parts, as in every country and colony in which Presbyterianism has planted her imperial foot.

Sabbath Observance.

No subject of direct church work is of more pressing importance at the present moment, nor deserves the attention of the General Assembly more, than that of Sabbath Observance. This is not a hackneyed subject, nor one the church can afford to relegate to the formality of bare resolutions. A comprehensive line of policy ought to be adopted and steps should be taken to arouse the interest of the whole church in the question as it has never been aroused before. Seldom, if ever, have the efforts put forth by the enemies of the Lord's Day been more daring, unscrupulous and persistent. And the attack is all along the line. No country seems to have escaped from the agitation which is carried on in favor of destroying the sacredness and the peace of the Sabbath Day. The following summarized extract from the report of the Committee of the Presbyterian Church in the United States shows how the question is regarded, there and the reports of the churches throughout Protestant Christendom afford similar examples: "The antagonistic forces which tend to undermine the American Sabbath, both as a civil and religious institution, are insidious and active. Vigorous and organized attempts are being made to destroy the legal and moral safeguards of this sacred day. A secularizing Sunday literature invades our homes; Sunday traffic, Sunday excursions, Sunday concerts, Sunday social entertainments and Sunday travelling for gain or pleasure in many places prevail. There is an alarming disposition to attack the sacred character of the day, and to regard its observance on religious grounds as an indication of a narrow and Pharisaic spirit. Even among professing Christians there are those who, while admitting that the physical, domestic and industrial interests of the people require the maintenance of the weekly rest day, do not seem to appreciate its religious obligations. The present situation is serious—demanding the immediate consideration of the patriot, the philanthropist and the Christian. This is not a time for depression or inaction. The Sabbath is a sacred trust committed to our hands. It is the foundation of national prosperity, the safeguard of social order as well as of religious blessings, the friend of the wage-earner, and the visible sign of a Christian civilization. We are commissioned to defend this institution against all its foes, and to exemplify its spiritual significance by a consistent life."

As indicating how this situation has been met during the past year the Committee report evidences of increased and growing interest in a due observance of the Sabbath: "Movements are in progress in many cities looking toward the enforcement of Sunday laws. Ministers are preaching on Sabbath Observance, and

attention is called to it in homes and Sabbath schools. Young People's Societies have taken a marked interest in the different aspects of the question; the religious press has been pronounced in advocating Sabbath sentiment; Sabbath associations have been exerting a wide influence for good, and the Christian pulpit—delivering messages of truth on the divine obligation of the Sabbath—has accomplished much in awaking the public conscience."

The Vacant Professorship.

The Presbyteries have sent up nominations and suggestions in the matter of the Knox College vacancy. The suggestions are more important than some of the nominations. The feeling is very pronounced that more time than has been available is requisite for the due disposal of the question. Should Dr. Gregg's resignation be accepted, as doubtless it will, the suggestion that the College work be re-arranged comes with peculiar force and ought to prevail. The letter published on behalf of the Alumni in our issue of the 6th inst., and because of the importance of which, and coming as it does from the Alumni of the College we republish in this issue, places the question in striking light, and leaves no argument for an immediate appointment. Delay would admit of the proposals for re-casting the duties of the professors, being carefully and patiently discussed and the best possible conclusion being arrived at. It cannot be said that the advantage of settling the matter at once would compensate for the obvious disadvantages of a wrong selection, the results of which might imperil the future of an institution which holds a most cherished place in the estimation of the Church.

Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

If there is one scheme standing out as an evidence of the Benevolent character of the Church of Christ, it is this Fund for providing a comfortable ending to a life of toil in the Master's service, often in spirit among the least of the brethren it is to the aged minister a joy and comfort to know that *He* says "In as much as ye did it unto one of these ye did it unto me." Whether the Church can claim the honor yet of filling up the requirement of the Head of the Church, we are not quite ready to allow, for at best the annuity promised is too small, but we frankly admit, and rejoice in admitting, that great advance has been made during the last few years; the report of the year just closed shews that the annuitants have received more than was anticipated a few weeks ago. Not only has the drawback of last year been made up but the annuities for the year have been paid in full on the modified rule on which the Committee has been working for three years. It is, however, to be noted that while the Committee commenced the year with a good working balance, they report its close with a very much smaller amount to credit.

Besides the number of annuities is increasing: this means a decided necessity for increased congregational collections, what we find, however, is that these have been decreasing of late, and the increased ability of the Committee to pay is due to the result of the effort for the Enowment Fund. The Convener has given much valuable attention to the scheme, and the Secretary, Mr. Burns, has with Presbyterian perseverance, and