

mouth, New Brunswick, (*via* Amherst) and Pictou. Now there are three despatched weekly to the two former places, and four to the latter."

"Query 4th. Do the Merchants or others complain of any irregularity in reference to these arrangements, or do they receive their letters as punctually as ever they did?"

"Answer. I have reason to believe that there is as little reason to complain of want of punctuality in the arrival of the Mails now as there was formerly."

As the result of the existing Government arrangement, viz.: The closing of all Post Offices on the Lord's Day and the prohibition of Sabbath Mail Travelling; the undersigned state, that the Mails are as regularly despatched, and more frequently than heretofore; that, from inquiries made of some of the leading Merchants in this City, they find that the present system works well and satisfactorily, and meets their approval; that although, when this improvement was first spoken of, it was discountenanced by many, and even thought by the Post Office Department that the changes could not be effected without too great public inconvenience and dissatisfaction; it is now, after a trial of upwards of a year, highly prized by all; enables a large number of persons, including Postmasters and their Clerks, Mail Carriers, Hostlers and Servants, to worship God and attend the public ordinances of religion, who, under former arrangements, were debarred of this privilege, and that it is hailed as a boon conferred upon our people which will bring honor to our country and a blessing from the Lord of the Sabbath.

They would, in conclusion, state that no public Reading Room is open in Halifax on the Sabbath. That the Athenæum—a place of much resort by all classes—has never been opened on the Lord's Day since its first establishment in 1850; and that a public Reading Room recently established here on an extensive scale, and which numbers upwards of one hundred and fifty subscribers (who are daily increasing) and comprising the Mercantile community, has a standing rule that the Reading Room is to be entirely closed during the whole of the Sabbath, which facts must evidently lead to the conclusion that there is a growing interest and desire for the better and more general observance of the Lord's Day.

All which is respectfully submitted.

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