

amidst thanksgiving and praise, to the Lord of the Sabbath and to one another as the defenders of that day which the world had been commanded at the beginning of time, and afterwards from the clefts of Sinai, to keep Holy to the Lord.

It appears that in Australia, as well as in Europe and America, the Sabbath battle is being fought. Much is at stake for time and for eternity.

It was one of the many good services that had been rendered by the recent Sabbath Congress at Geneva, to prove that there was a vast amount of unnecessary and unjustifiable labour on the Lord's day in the post office arrangements of almost every country in Europe. It is the duty of Governments to reduce labour in the public establishments and offices under their control to the lowest minimum consistent with the public weal, and not to raise a mere matter of convenience which better management would dispose of into a necessity.

The extent to which the electric telegraph spread and ramified over all civilised countries was sufficient to meet every real case of exigency which arose from the necessity of immediate communication between distant places, and so to render unnecessary both the delivery of letters and the arrangements required in order to their delivery on the Lord's day. A late President of the United States issued an order on the subject of Sabbath observance by the servants of the Government, which did equal honor to himself and to the great people in whose name he spoke:—"The President, Commander in Chief of the army and navy, desires to enforce the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men of the military and naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiments of a Christian people, and a due regard for the divine will, demanded that the Sunday labour of the army and navy be reduced to a measure of strict necessity. The discipline and character of the national forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperilled by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High."

The railway system has done much to abolish the Sabbath for hundreds of thousands of people. Between 80,000 and 100,000 labourers are required to turn out in Great Britain alone, and to work steadily on that day, and no doubt the number is still larger in America. Apart from the highest of all interests, there are also the loud claims of humanity, for the fact is attracting the notice of philanthropists

and social reformers, that employes on the railways become prematurely old, and are subject to many forms of disease that shorten life. Dr. Thomson remarked that the General Council had it in its power to send a great moral influence over Christendom, and representatives from many lands would carry home with them much of that influence to the spheres of their ministry.

Let them identify themselves as their Presbyterian fathers would have done with the cause of the Lord's day, as the priceless gift of heaven to man, rich in blessings, alike for his body and for his soul. There were brethren who were seeking with a very agony of earnestness to restore to their country its lost Sabbath. Let them cheer such in efforts of mingled religion and patriotism. There were christian churches in some countries, especially in some of the British Colonies, who were nobly fighting the cause of the Sabbath at this very hour. The mammon spirit was trying to buy it up from needy workers, and to turn the men that would sell it to serfs. Let these earnest men who knew how much the future prosperity of those young nations was dependent on their possession of a day that can neither be bought nor sold, and that should be wholly consecrated to religion, hear their cry from afar, "Hold fast that which thou hast received; let no man take thy crown." And let those who still retained their Sabbaths in no small portion of their integrity be on the watch against every hostile influence that would rifle them of the blessing by little and little, knowing that it was a thousand times more easy to preserve than it would be to recover it after it ceased to be interwoven with a nation's habits and institutions, and men had become reconciled to an evil because they had become familiar with it. And when their moral training was blighted, where were our national strength, our solidity, our order, our liberty, our elements of greatness and power? It would require no visible judgments from heaven to ensure its decadence. The secret of its ruin was working in it. And already had the finger of God described on it, "Ichabod, the glory has departed."

The Railway strikes and riots in the United States are of themselves an illustration of the necessity, of not merely resting on the Lord's Day, but devoting its precious hours to the religious and moral training of the people. Let a man lose his Sabbath, let him toil and become brutalized on that day, and little hope can be entertained that he can become or continue a good citizen, or in any sense a very useful member of society.