

REPORT ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

LETTER.

THE MANSE, ONSLOW, Aug. 11th, 1876.

JOHN MARCH, Esq., Secretary Baptist Convention.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Committee on Sabbath Observance appointed by the Presbytery of Truro in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, it was decided to issue invitations asking for a Convention representing all the leading Denominations of Protestants in the Maritime Provinces, in order that their combined influence might be used to prevent, if possible, the desecration of the Sabbath, by the running of railway trains on that day. Learning that you are the Secretary of the Baptist Convention, I take the liberty of addressing you with the request that you will bring this matter before that body at its first meeting, intimating the desire of our Committee that they would appoint representatives to meet with others at the Convention to be held in the Presbyterian Hall, Truro, on Thursday, Sept. 14th, at 2 p. m., for the purpose of considering the whole subject of Sabbath desecration by railway officials, and for taking such action by petition or memorial to the Government or otherwise, as may in the opinion of the Convention be deemed best calculated to effect a reform in this department of our public service.

The Committee feel that this Sabbath traffic has attained a magnitude which calls for the serious interposition of all who are concerned for the moral and spiritual interests of the country. To afford some evidence of this they may state, from information received they believe from perfectly reliable sources, that on the line of railway between Halifax and St. John alone, there are run regularly during some parts of the Sabbath, two freight and two express trains. To effect this, which in the opinion of the Committee is altogether unnecessary, the whole track requires to be twice walked on that day demanding the labour of nearly two hundred men, on each occasion. The stations require to be opened, demanding the labour, it is estimated, of a hundred additional. These with the men actually employed upon the trains, and others engaged incidentally and indirectly, form a total which in itself and in its influence and example upon the community at large, the Committee cannot view without serious apprehension and alarm.

The Committee may state further that they have been in correspondence with the Government almost since the inception of the Sabbath traffic, and looking back upon this correspondence, as a whole, they may characterize it as unsatisfactory. Their experience has taught them that no single church will be able to remedy the evil complained of, and that our only hope of redress is in the combined effort of all.

Hoping that we will receive the cordial assistance and co-operation of the Convention,

I remain, yours truly,

J. H. CHASE, *Secretary.*