

posed of, and the sales have been sufficient to meet all expenses.

Notes upon the lessons continue to be carefully prepared by members of the committee, and printed from month to month in the *Record*. The notes have proved to be a valuable assistance to teachers and scholars.

Your committee would recommend to Sabbath school teachers, where it is practicable, the holding of weekly meetings for the study of the lessons and any other business connected with this work. These meetings have been found to be very profitable, where they have been tried, in preparing the teachers for their work, and in giving many useful practical hints in conducting the business of the class; but where these weekly meetings are impracticable, we would especially recommend monthly meetings for conference and prayer. The work is the Lord's, and is it not the duty of those engaged in it, to wait upon Him and pray that He would bless the works of their hands, yea, that He would establish it?

Your committee would further recommend that special prominence should be given to the Shorter Catechism in all our schools. It is an excellent summary of christian doctrine and should be familiar to the mind of every youth in our church.—Many experienced Sabbath school teachers have found Leitch's Analysis of the Shorter Catechism to be an admirable help to teachers and scholars.

Some attention has been given to the selecting of libraries by the members of committee living in Halifax, and a number of books have been disposed of by the colportage agent at River John, in the terms proposed at last Synod, viz., cost and charges for the replenishing of Sabbath school libraries.

All which is respectfully submitted.

H. B. MACHAY, *Con.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Sabbath sustains a close relation to every means employed for the establishment and extension of the kingdom of Christ. Unless the church can secure attention to the observance of the Lord's day, 'the good seed of the kingdom' cannot be so widely diffused, nor its claims so fully considered as when the day is kept holy. The means of grace cannot be expected to exert their appropriate influence, unless they be attended to in circumstances favourable to their effective operation. In such circumstances the human mind is directly placed when the Sabbath is remembered

and sanctified. The duty, therefore, forcibly devolves on the church of Christ of striving to maintain the scriptural observance of the Lord's day. A right estimate of the great work committed to her hands by her living Head, should stimulate her to greater devotedness and more earnest faithfulness in this highly important duty.—Truthfully has it been said, the church cannot afford to neglect the subject of Sabbath observance.

The committee of the Synod are not in a position to report any decided progress during the past year. On the contrary, they have reason to fear that at least in some localities the desecration of the Lord's day has been increasing. They, however, believe that this is not the result of any neglect of duty on the part of any of the ministers connected with Synod, but has proceeded from causes over which they had no control. In reference to such a state of matters the question for the committee and for the Synod to consider is, can anything be done to check this growing evil?

The committee has received information from a member of the sub-committee in Halifax, that French "men-of-war" fire salutes on Sunday in the harbour. The telegraph offices are also now open for one hour every Lord's day. This year the 21st of June was on Monday; and on that day horse-racing took place on the Halifax common, and boat-racing in the harbour. Preparations for both these practices were made on the previous Sabbath, so that the common presented a scene of excitement during the whole day. Five newspapers are also published on Monday; and in at least three of the offices of publication Sunday labor is regularly performed. Theatricals, permitted on Saturday nights, and much drunkenness on these nights, lead to a great neglect of the duties of the Lord's day in Halifax.

These numerous sinful practices should not exist, and if possible ought not to be permitted. They should be deeply deplored and held in utter abhorrence by every member of this church and of every other. Your committee respectfully recommend that the sub-committee in Halifax investigate the subject, and endeavour to ascertain if the authorities of the city have not the power to prevent or partly suppress these glaring violations of the fourth commandment. That committee might also agitate the subject in connection with the pastors of other christian churches in Halifax, and influential christians, and endeavour by petition or otherwise to bring such an influence to bear on the authorities and on the Telegraph company, as would lessen the evil or prevent it from spreading.—Could not the Young Men's Christian Association be enlisted in this good cause?