

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Sabbath Reformation Society of Kingston, 1857.

Your committee congratulate their constituents upon the advent of the 7th anniversary of the Kingston Sabbath Reformation Society. Seven is a sacred and perfect number and in this case it represents that sacred portion of time, which God requires men to set apart to His sole service and glory. What grateful feelings ought your committee to cherish towards their Heavenly Father, and King, that they are this day enabled to set up their Ebenezer and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Your successive committees, by Divine grace, have been enabled year after year, to witness, with some degree of boldness, for the Sabbath, as a Divine Institution of perpetual obligation, to protest against its violation in every form, whether by private individuals, public bodies, or the Government of the Province, and to maintain unflinchingly the high and inviolable position, that all men have an inalienable right to its full, free, and undisturbed enjoyment, as the day of hallowed rest; bountifully bestowed upon them by the Creator and Ruler of the universe.

Your committees have also had the privilege of dispersing far and wide, throughout the Province, thousands of emphatic appeals addressed to all classes in favor of strict Sabbath observance, and against Sabbath desecration; reminding them of the blessings secured by the Divine promises to those "Who call the Sabbath a delight," and of the misery personal, social, and national, which must inevitably fall upon those who disregard its high behests, and despise its Divine sanctions. It is moreover cause of devout thanks giving to Almighty God, that through the instrumentality of this association, thousands of tracts have been distributed throughout this city, and the country, speaking authoritatively of the duty of keeping holy the Sabbath day, and sweetly of the enjoyment of its hallowed rest. Neither is it to be overlooked that the initiative was taken by this society, in calling upon Ministers of the Gospel, of all denominations throughout the length and breadth of the land, simultaneously to sound the key-note, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," upon every successive third Sabbath of the first month of the year, and that they have urged upon the Lord's remembrancers, the duty of bearing the Sabbath specially on their hearts when entering into their closets and encircling the domestic altar. It ought also to be borne in mind that hundreds of blank forms of petitions to the different branches of the Legislature, have as occasion demanded been forwarded to Ministers, Mayor's, Magistrates, and others, claiming a Sabbath undisturbed by post office, or canal labor, urging them to have them signed, directing them how to proceed, and engaging, if required, to forward them to the Seat of Government, and that in numerous instances this request has been complied with in various parts of the country.

This is a faint outline of the noble work in which it has been the privilege of your successive committees to engage. It has

been to them a work of faith and labor of love which if it were possible to conceive such a thing; even an angel might be disposed to envy. That full success has not hitherto attended the efforts of this and kindred associations, and that the post office is still open on the Lord's Day, may well be matter of grief to all in the Province, who love the Lord, fear him as a jealous God, and prize His blood-bought institutions;—but although the object sought after has not been obtained, who can tell what evils may not have been averted by the prayerful endeavours of this and similar associations, and who will despise the day of small things; and count of no value the partial reforms already conceded by the government. Your committee endeavoured to carry out the unanimous resolve of their constituents at the last annual meeting, by transmitting about 2,000 addresses to Ministers of the Gospel, and civic authorities, and along with some of these addresses petitions, ready for signature, and when signed, to be presented to the different branches of the Legislature. They regret that no action was taken upon the subject,—the representatives of the people, having their minds occupied with topics which seem to them of paramount importance, but which your committee believe should never have been allowed to crowd out a matter of such vital interest to the whole community. It is subject for unfeigned thanksgiving to the King of Kings, that the attempts in the mother country to establish the open prostitution of the Lord's Day, by collecting masses of people to hear bands of music in the parks, and to throw open museums, galleries of art, &c., in the metropolis, upon the Lord's reserved portion of sacred time, have been signally defeated. All honor to that distinguished prelate of the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury, for the determined stand he took against the Sabbath breakers. The post office open on the Lord's Day, is still the opprobrium of Canada, while Nova Scotia exults in her quiet Sabbaths—undisturbed by labor licensed indeed by man, but strictly forbidden by God. May this public scandal soon cease to call up the blush of shame upon the cheek of every true lover of the Redeemer, and of his laws so perfectly adapted to promote the present and eternal interests of mankind; and with it may every other form of Sabbath desecration perish. Under a deep sense of their short-comings it behoves your committee to cry out in a spirit of true penitence, "Enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified." And for any measure of success to say, "Not unto us Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory for thy mercy and for thy truths sake." May the law of God be the rule, Jesus the model, and the Holy Spirit the teacher of all who profess to love Him. "And in controversy they shall stand in judgment; and they shall judge it according to my judgments: and they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my Sabbaths."