

cally, though there were many adversaries. We gratefully accept them as the first fruits of a harvest we trust may speedily be reaped.

As regards direct action taken by your Committee, they have to state that the Synodical memorials were duly forwarded to Quebec, signed by the Moderator and Clerk. The Presbytery of Kingston, one of two Sessions, and several Congregations of our Church have also memorialized. A correspondence was also entered into with the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, through the Convener, acting in another capacity. Assistance was rendered in the way of increasing the number of memorials and securing evidence. There is reason to believe that the subject has been taken up by most of our ministers, if not on the Sabbath in January referred to previously, at least on some other occasion or occasions during the year.

The substance of last year's Report was published in the *Record*. At the opening of Parliament a brief address was published, stimulating to immediate effort in the matter of memorials. Your Committee at its September meeting resolved on issuing a Circular, explanatory of the grounds on which they advocated the stoppage of mails and the shutting of Post Offices on the Sabbath—and meeting objections. This Circular appeared in the October number of the *Record*. The Pastoral Address enjoined by the Synod has also been published through the same medium. Its principal objects were to furnish a synopsis of the evidence in favour of the Divine authority and permanent obligation of the Sabbath, and to bring under the notice of our people some of the more prominent forms of Sabbath desecration.

Articles too have appeared in the *Record*, illustrating certain phases of the general question.

Your Committee would beg respectfully to recommend:—

1. That the Synod renew their appeal to Parliament, so soon as a convenient opportunity is presented, and that presbyteries, sessions and individual congregations take similar action.

2. That the plan of preaching on the subject of the Sabbath be continued, and that for uniformity sake the third Sabbath in January be selected.

3. That superintendents of Sabbath schools direct the attention of the children under their supervision, as frequently as possible, to this great question.

4. That whilst by all means avoiding every thing like political partizanship, we should endeavour, in the event of a new election, to press on the attention of candidates the Sabbath question; and especially to the passage of a prohibitory law, as regards Sabbath labour in the public departments.

5. That Sessions be recommended to discountenance, by every means in their power, visiting, travelling, and other prevalent forms of Sabbath desecration; to reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all long sufferings, and faithfully to enforce more stringent discipline, should it be deemed necessary.

6. That inasmuch as this cause cannot be successfully prosecuted without the divine blessing, and union for prayer is especially needed and fitted to prove highly beneficial, in order to that blessing being secured, an hour monthly, say between 7 and 8, P. M., on the last Saturday of every month, be thus set apart by all the office-bearers and members of our church.

Your Committee feel that in connexion with this cause we are called on as a church, to thank God and take courage. Let us go forward, stimulated and encouraged by the reasonableness of the cause itself, the solid Scriptural foundation on which it rests, the experience of the past, the aspects of the present, and the prospects of the future. Be it ours by the employment of every legitimate instrumentality to preserve unbroken that fence which a divine hand has reared around this sacred institution, to count the Sabbath the holy of the Lord, honourable, then ours will be the

privilege of riding on the high places of this land, and being fed with the heritage of Jacob, our father, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee was appointed for the purpose of directing their attention to the subject of Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes, with the view of making such suggestions as they might think fitted to promote the efficiency of these institutions for communicating religious instructions. In pursuance of the object they would now submit the following suggestions:—

1. That special care should be taken in the selection of teachers of piety and intelligence, and who possess the faculty of communicating religious instruction, and that their appointment should be subject to the approval of the Session.

2. That a regular series of lessons, consisting of portions of Scripture and of the Shorter Catechism, should be taught simultaneously in all the classes of each school, and that the exercises of each Sabbath should be closed with a general examination of the whole school by the Superintendent or Minister.

3. That Ministers should preach an annual sermon in their respective congregations on the subject of Sabbath schools, and deliver a quarterly address to the scholars of those schools under their charge.

4. That Elders be recommended to take special pains to see that all the children within their respective districts are regularly in attendance at Sabbath schools, and that they should make inquiry as to the effects of the instructions therein communicated.

5. Where congregations are large or scattered, it is recommended, that besides a central school, others should be established in more remote localities for the benefit of the children residing therein.

6. With reference to Bible classes, they recommend the establishment of congregational classes, not merely for the young, but also for those of maturer years, and that in these might be taken up the same subjects as are taught in the Sabbath school, on the ensuing Sabbath, that so teachers might have an opportunity of being better prepared for the discharge of their duties.

7. Finally; that the efficiency of Sabbath schools and Bible classes, as instruments of instruction and conversion, and as means of the revival of religion, should form a special subject of prayer in each closet, family and congregation.

WILLIAM GREGG, Convener.

THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

In connexion with the Synod's Home Mission Report, it has been customary to notice the mission at the Red River, within the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company. It is with the parent church in Scotland that the spiritual superintendence and care of this mission principally lies, and to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland has been entrusted the important measure of selecting and sending out a permanent pastor. In the meantime it is well known that in autumn of 1851, Mr. John Black, an esteemed young brother, was commissioned by the authority of this church to take the spiritual charge. He was solemnly ordained at Toronto about the beginning of August; arrived after many delays and difficulties at the settlement in the end of September, and he has thus spent two winters in that distant region. The warm reception he met with; his labours and his success in organizing the church, and in the dispensation of ordinances thereafter; these and other particulars strikingly illustrative of a special Providence, are all familiar to the members of this church, as they have been from time to time

brought before the public through the medium of the *Record*.

During the past year frequent communications have been received from Mr. Black, of a very favourable and encouraging nature. His health has been mercifully favoured, and he has been permitted to continue his valuable labours without interruption. The ravages of the flood, which for a season desolated the land, and for six weeks compelled the settlers to take refuge on the more elevated ridges, have been in mercy repaired with the loss, we believe, of a single life, and the colony is as prosperous as ever.

A plain and substantial place of worship, a stone edifice, has been commenced, and a readiness for the minister is also in progress. At a settlement, 14 miles north of the principal station, a second or branch church has been put up; and in these two places, divine service is regularly maintained on Sabbaths and at other times. The attendance at both stations is regular and good, and the number of members now in communion is about 70; and this considered, as the nucleus of a Gaelic congregation; is highly encouraging. The Sabbath school at the principal settlement is attended by upwards of 100 pupils, and the Bible Class numbers from 25 to 30. A godly discipline has been maintained by the eldership, and the moral influence of sound Scriptural Presbyterianism has been felt beneficially throughout the settlement.

In the end of autumn last, a painful event occurred in the neighbourhood of the Red River colony. Mr. Terry, a young man, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Tanner, a pious American missionary, and in training under him for future labours among the native Indians, had been attacked and cruelly massacred by the Sioux. Since that distressing event Mr. Tanner has been settled near Pembina, and within the American boundaries, as a labourer among the Indians.

We are happy to report that a kindlier feeling now exists on the part of the adherents of the Episcopal Church towards our missionary operations, in behalf of our people in the settlement. Our friends had stood forth manfully for their rights, and the righteous claims of civil and religious freedom have been successfully vindicated. The Presbyterian brethren have, no doubt, made great sacrifices, but peace has been their reward, and liberty to sit under their own vine and fig-tree, none daring to make them afraid. The last stronghold of selfish exclusiveness; indeed, has not yet been stormed; and the Academies and Normal Schools of Canada West, may for some time yet be called to open their gates to such young men as Mr. Black or others may send or bring down, for the benefit of a sound liberal education.

The Colonial Committee of the Free Church at Edinburgh, are in hopes of being able soon to send out a pious Gaelic minister to relieve Mr. Black, who will be hailed by the Synod of Canada on his return amongst us, from a field of honourable labour, and his re-accession to our body, which has suffered much by the ravages of mortality, will be an event of most pleasing import. We could ill spare him at the time—still less now—and yet the Synod will not regret his temporary absence, considering the benefits he has been the means of conferring on an interesting out-post at the verge of civilization. Let assembled pastors and elders remember our brother at the throne of grace; while they seek to keep up with him, from time to time, a friendly correspondence.

The sum of about £30 currency, has been collected in aid of the erection of the church at Red River. The friends of our church, and of all the churches, are earnestly requested to help this interesting claim, and any sum, however small, sent to the Treasurer of the church, or to the Rev. Dr. Burns, Toronto, who has conducted the correspondence with the Red River since the commencement of the mission, will be most thankfully received.