

bath visiting should be firmly discouraged. We may here say that, on the Sabbath, the exercises of family worship, without being made tedious, may be somewhat longer than on ordinary days, and that all the parts of it, praise, prayer, and the reading of the Word should be duly attended to.

We might refer also to the matter of Sabbath reading. There was a time when the only books to be found in use on the Sabbath day, in our Presbyterian families, were the Bible, the Shorter Catechism, and books exclusively of a religious character. But now it is otherwise. Newspapers and magazines, with much that is not only unexceptionable, but useful and excellent, but with much too that is merely secular, are found in the houses of very many of our people, and form the principal Sabbath reading, especially of the young. It is to be feared that many are not very strict in drawing the line between the religious and the secular columns. We commend the subject to the thoughtful and prudent consideration of the heads of families; and we would further suggest that some oversight might be exercised by Christian parents over the Sabbath-School literature disseminated amongst the young.

(3). As members of the community there are many ways in which you may help to protect the Sabbath. Your example will not be without its influence. You may do much amongst your friends and neighbours by friendly remonstrance and counsel. Much has been done in this way. As directors or shareholders of public companies you may cause your power to be felt. You can circulate suitable tracts, or supply means for doing so, and for carrying on needful contests with the enemies of the Sabbath. You can assist in obtaining right legislation, or in carrying into effect the laws which we have already secured for the defence of the Sabbath. You can take part in the formation of Sabbath associations, and encourage all proper means that may be employed for the suppression of Sabbath profanation amongst us.

(4). Finally, whatever may be your sphere of influence, so far as your fellow-men are concerned, you can all pray to the Lord of the Sabbath, who hath the hearts of all men in His hand, who taketh a peculiar interest in His ordinances, and who hath declared that "when the enemy cometh in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."

May God enable you, in these and other ways, to stand up for the Lord, and for His Holy day. It is precious to Him, and He will take delight in those who love and honour His day. "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable, and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words, then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob, thy father, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

In name of the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church.

WILLIAM REID, *Moderator*.

NOTE.—The General Assembly having approved of the recommendation of the Committee, that Pastors should be instructed to bring the claims of the Sabbath before their congregations, on some Sabbath to be appointed for the purpose, it is hereby recommended that the third Sabbath of January be taken for this purpose, and that Ministers, in accordance with the appointment of the Assembly, bring the claims of the Sabbath before their congregations on that day, and make it the subject of special prayer.

W. R.