

*To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir
CHARLES THEOPHILUS METCALFE, Baronet,
G. C. B., Governor-General of British
North America, &c. &c. &c.*

The Memorial of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of
Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland—

HUMBLY SHEWETH :

That your Memorialists observe, with deep regret, the
evils which result from the traffic carried on, upon the
Sabbath, on the Rideau Canal.

That your memorialists regard the devout observance of
the Sabbath as one of the most important duties of religion,
and one of the chief supports of virtue, morals, and good
order ; and hence, they cannot but deplore the open, public,
and continual desecration of that Holy Day, which is prac-
tised every season along the whole of that canal.

That by this practice, those numerous persons who are
employed on, or in connection with the canal,—in the
management of the steamboats, propellers, and barges,—
and the lock-masters and lock-labourers, are deprived of that
rest which every individual in a Christian country ought to
enjoy on the Sabbath ; and, in various ways, the habit of
Sabbath-breaking is formed or cherished in many, especially
the young and thoughtless,—a habit which generally leads
to other vices and crimes.

That, besides the evil consequences to which the practice
directly or indirectly leads, and the offence which it gives to
all well-disposed persons, your memorialists regard it as in
itself sinful, an act of rebellion against that God, who
commands all to keep the Sabbath holy, and, from the
public nature of the offence, and from its being sanctioned
in some degree, by the Government, involving the guilt of
national sin.

That, so far as your memorialists can ascertain, no inju-
rious effects, as regards the trade of the canal, would follow
from closing it on the Sabbath ; and that, by a little atten-
tion, the owners and captains of steamboats could so arrange
their business as to perform it on the six lawful days of the
week :—in confirmation of which opinion, it may be men-

MONTREAL,
Monday,
Sept. 23, 1844.

Memorial to the
Governor General
anent the Sabbath
traffic on the
Rideau canal.