

APPENDIX.

(A)

REPORT ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Committee on Sabbath Observance report:—Your Committee feel that to them has been committed a subject of no ordinary interest. The Sabbath stands amongst the oldest and most sacred institutions in the house of God. Its observance or non-observance has been a sufficient index of the piety or impiety of our race, in all ages. The desecration of this holy day is a cause of sorrow and annoyance to all good men.—Your Committee feel that the sacredness of this day is also frequently overlooked by men of otherwise sound morals and good intentions. The command is, not merely a cessation of secular employment, but to “keep *holy* the Sabbath day. It is not only a day of rest, but of *holy rest*. On this day, more than on any other, holiness is to become *especially* the object of our pursuit. Hence the importance of associating with this day other social institutions, that our minds may become more separated from the world, and more entirely set on God and heaven. Hence then the importance of attendance on the ordinances and institutions of religion on this day, viz, the worship of God in his house, and the reading and prayerful study of the Bible. Your Committee are of opinion that this day might in many particulars become more interesting and profitable among the young. Where Sabbath Schools are not established, it affords an important opportunity for catechizing the young on the subject of religion and virtue, and should in this way be improved. Your Committee deplore the efforts of some of our countrymen to legalize Sabbath desecration, and we would express our thanks to those brethren who have so ably opposed them. And we earnestly hope the time may never come when Sabbath desecration will be legalized in this country. We would earnestly recommend to all our churches to set a high value on the sanctity of the Lord’s day, and that every proper effort be made to secure its better and holier observance throughout our land, so that gossiping, rambling, lounging, visiting, idling, and talking outside