

will not remove the sin from our doors. Why should sales of landed property be had at the doors of the parish-churches on the Sabbath-day? What reason can be adduced to justify the taking of any legal proceedings on that day? Even the poor plea of expediency can no longer be urged in favour of the continuance of these practices.

The cause of their enactment probably was, that in a sparsely settled country with indifferent means of communication, such as this once was, it was found or thought difficult to collect the people together, or inform them of the various proceedings in which they were interested. But this defence for the legalised disregard of the Sabbath can, we maintain, no longer be set up with any show of reason, as the wide circulation of Newspapers, and increased facilities of intercourse have entirely obviated the expediency of their continuance, for we do not admit that there existed a necessity. The law provides not only that notice should be given *viva voce* at the door of the parish-church, but also that a written notice should be affixed. Surely the *viva voce* proclamations may be dispensed with, if the latter is continued, as the rising generation is becoming so generally educated, that in every neighbourhood, even in the rural parishes, some will be found able to read.

Besides, why should the Sabbath be selected at all? Is not the Roman Catholic portion of the community assembled together on Fête-days and other week-days, when sufficient notoriety could be obtained without desecrating the Lord's Day? We never think of these sales, notices, &c. without being forcibly reminded of the words of the Saviour of Men, when with a scourge of cords He drove the money-changers from the Temple, "My Father's House is a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves." Surely the door of a building consecrated, though after a mistaken form, to the service of the Most High, is no fitting place for the resort of "money-changers," and should not by law be made the mart of buyers and sellers, or the field for the display of the wit and jest of the bailiff. Agitate then in this matter, we beseech you, all ye who believe that the Maker of Heaven and earth, "the Lord of Sabaoth," rested on the seventh day and *hallowed* it. Bestir yourselves, all ye who believe that the Christian Sabbath is an infinitely wise and holy institution, and strive to do away with so pregnant a source of evil, so foul a stain on the character of a professedly Christian country, as is this sacrilegious system of legalised Sabbath desecration.

We remind all, into whose hands these remarks may fall, that, if anything is to be done, it must be at once, as Parliament is summoned to meet for the Despatch of Business, on the 18th of January instant;

and that, unless prompt and decisive measures are taken, the opportunity of urging the matter on the attention of our Senators with every prospect of success will be lost, and years may elapse before as favourable an opportunity of bringing about a change of the law be presented. We confidently trust that the attention of Christians of every denomination has only to be directed to this matter to ensure energetic action; and, in order to give every facility in our power to parties in the rural parishes, who may feel inclined to respond to this call upon their Christian feeling, we annex a brief form of petition, which may perhaps be thought worthy of adoption in some instances, though doubtless many will be inclined to extend their views on the subject to greater length than our limits allow us to do. Petitions should be at once prepared, and their framers should bear in mind that all petitions should be in triplicate, and addressed to the Three Branches of the Executive Government, viz, the Governor General, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. By the Rules of the Houses of Parliament no printed petitions are received, and some of the signatures require to be written on the sheet containing the body of the petition. We are at liberty to state, that any petitions, addressed under cover to the Hon. Peter McGill during the session of Parliament, will be duly cared for.

To—  
The Petition of the Undersigned Inhabitants of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the District of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Humbly Showeth,*

That your Petitioners, believing that the Sabbath is an institution of Divine ordinance, and that no people, who neglect the observance of that day, can expect to enjoy a continued course of prosperity, have long viewed with deep concern the desecration of the Sabbath, caused by the taking of certain legal proceedings, such as the Effecting of Sales, Promulgating of Notices, &c., on that day.

That your Petitioners believe that, if these proceedings were expedient at one period, they have ceased to be so, as the progress of education among the people has been so great, and facilities for the acquirement of information have been so much increased by the extension of the circulation of Newspapers, that intelligence of any of these proceedings can be conveyed with the utmost rapidity to any part of the Province.

That your Petitioners conceive that, in any case, the affixing to the door of the parish-church of any notice would be amply sufficient to secure an attendance at any sale on a week-day, or to convey information of any proceedings to those interested.

Wherefore your Petitioners in conclusion pray, that, as they have been given to understand a revision of the system of Judicature is now in progress, your Honourable House would be pleased to concur in an Act abolishing all Legal Proceedings of what kind soever on the Lord's Day, and your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

## THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

### PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.

The Presbytery of Bathurst met at Brockville on the 30th ultimo, for the purpose of inducting the Rev. Thomas Haig to the pastoral charge in that place, in connection with our Church. The Rev. Mr.

M'Morine, of Ramsay, Moderator, presided on the occasion and preached a most impressive and appropriate discourse from Luke, x., 24—"One thing is needful." The Rev. Mr. Bain, of Perth, addressed the Minister and Congregation on their respective privileges and responsibilities. At the close of the services the Congregation gave to their Pastor a very cordial and affectionate welcome.

This is a settlement which promises, with the Divine blessing, to be productive of much benefit. Mr Haig has, in the providence of God, been appointed to a most interesting and important field in the Colonial vineyard. In intelligence, piety and devoted attachment to the Church of their Fathers, the Brockville Congregation will compare favourably with any of the Congregations of our Church. They have been subjected to a long vacancy and to many discouragements,—but they have proved themselves not to be wanting either in faith or faithfulness. They made early application to the Church of Scotland for a Minister, guaranteeing a stipend, very liberal, according to their numbers, and as compared with other Congregations. The inability of the Colonial Committee of that Church, for a time, to send them a Minister possessed of the qualifications proper for so important a charge as that of Brockville, and the praiseworthy determination of that Committee not to send one who, in its best judgment, did not possess these qualifications, did not abate, but rather stimulated and increased, their faith and expectations. They accordingly set about erecting a Church, and they now have a substantial stone edifice, of very commodious size, and chaste and ornamental architecture, roofed in and ready, as soon as the season will permit for inside finishing. They have also now got a Pastor, who, we trust, will realize the sanguine hopes they have been cherishing. He has come to them in the full vigour of youth and intellectual energy, and, what we regard as of far greater importance than either—inbued, we trust, with the unction of the Spirit—wisdom, love and zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Conductors of "The Presbyterian" do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed in the communications that may, from time to time, appear under this head.]

FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN.

## THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY.

### LETTER IV.

*Duty of the Laity as a Body, to take thought about maintaining the Ministry in a proper state of efficiency.*

It has become a kind of habit among many to speak, without thought, of the pride and the power and the wealth of the