

# THE SABBATH OBSERVER.

Published by the Committee of the Nova Scotia Sabbath Alliance.

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No. 1.

"THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN."

JANUARY, 1853.

### THE SABBATH OBSERVER.

THE COMMITTEE of the Nova Scotia Sabbath Alliance have resolved to issue, periodically, a small publication in connection with the Sabbath, similar to the one now sent forth. They have been induced to adopt this course for several reasons. First, they hope that, by the divine blessing resting upon such an exponent of their views, they may be honoured in elevating the standard of Sabbath sanctification, even amongst those classes that acknowledge its divine origin, but who have not sufficiently realized the extent and the solemnity of the obligations thereby imposed;—Secondly, they are desirous often and again, to bring before the minds of the christian public those views of the Sabbath which go to demonstrate its beneficent character, and to show how extensively it conduces, when duly observed, to man's physical, temporal, social, moral, and eternal welfare;—Thirdly, they feel it incumbent upon them to do what they can to furnish their fellow-creatures around, with the most recent intelligence of the efforts that are at present being made by the friends of the Sabbath, every where, with a view to its better observance, and, thereby, to warn and admonish, on the one hand, and to stimulate, encourage, and strengthen, on the other;—And fourthly, they feel persuaded that by such a vehicle they will have the opportunity of again and again directing attention to any species of Sabbath desecration that may exist amongst this population, and of urging to the use of those means that may appear best fitted for its removal. These are some of the main objects contemplated by the committee of the Nova Scotia Sabbath Alliance in occasionally issuing the *Sabbath Observer*; and they would earnestly solicit the countenance and support of the friends of the Sabbath, generally, throughout the Province, in order that this humble instrumentality may prove of extensive practical utility in promoting a better obser-

vance of that day, which is at once the memorial and the pledge of man's highest felicity, as well as the best conservatory of all our religious privileges.

The *Sabbath Observer* will be distributed gratuitously; and it is hoped that those who approve of the undertaking will forward their contributions to the Treasurer of the Nova Scotia Sabbath Alliance, M. G. Black, Esq., or to the Secretary, the Rev. A. Forrester, and thus warrant the committee to continue the publication.—*Original.*

### THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE SABBATH QUESTION.

There cannot be a greater mistake than to suppose that the battle of the Sabbath hath been fought and won, and that little fear need be apprehended of further hostilities. It might just as well be maintained that the cause of truth and righteousness hath triumphed over that of falsehood and wickedness, and that the adherents of the former may now return their sword into the sheath, and rest contented. Triumphed! Why the conflict between light and darkness, between truth and error, between faith and scepticism, is, properly speaking, but beginning; and so it is, so must it be, between the friends and opponents of the Sabbath. What constitutes the grand citadel of defence of all the gifts and blessings which the God of truth and life hath committed to the charge of his church? It is the Sabbath. What is it that forms the character-house of all our sacred and civil immunities and privileges? It is the Sabbath. What is the arsenal whence we must draw all our ammunition and weapons when the powers of this world are leagued in dread array against the ramparts of truth and righteousness? It is the Sabbath. And is it then to be wondered at that such tremendous strokes should be levelled by the emissaries of darkness and of blood, at this grand conservative Institute? Well do they know

that if once its walls are scaled and demolished, they have little to do but to divide the prey. Well do they know that if they could but obtain an entrance into this Treasury, and spoliates this our charter, there would be but little to arrest their tyrannical and domineering principles.—Well do they know that if this weapon were wrested from the hands of the leal-hearted Sabbatharians, they would soon become complete masters of the citadel.—If, therefore, the Sabbath be of such vast magnitude, what have we naturally to expect? That the powers of darkness will wage against it a determined and a ceaseless warfare—a warfare that will put on a different phase, according to circumstances, and be accoutred with those very weapons which the spirit of the age demands. It is well then that the friends of the Sabbath be ever on the alert and anon enquiring, Watchman, what of the night? And all this, that they may be in a state of preparedness for meeting their antagonists and causing their weapons of attack to recoil upon their own head.—And what is the particular phase in which opposition to the Sabbath now presents itself? It is, in our apprehension, three-fold.

1. *It is manifested in the speculative, the scientific, and the literary infidelity of the age.* The upholders and propagators of this species of infidelity are much more numerous, and much more deleterious in their influence, than many seem to be aware of. They come from various starting points, they flow from various fountain-heads, but they all at last arrive at the same awful gulph, the same gloomy chasm. Some start from the veriest heights of superstition, and, finding nought there to satisfy the cravings of their immortal spirits, they are precipitated headlong into the very opposite extremity, the jaws of infidelity. Others originate in intellectual idolatry, which, frowning on all that comes, not within the range of the genius of that idol, would fain subordinate