

THE SABBATH OBSERVER.

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No. 2. } "THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN." } APRIL, 1853.

PROCEEDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SABBATH CAUSE SINCE OUR LAST PUBLICATION.

THERE are few subjects that derive such benefit from discussion and agitation as the subject of the Sabbath. The more it is canvassed and tested in its bearings, the more fully will the divine wisdom and benevolence of its institution be manifested, and the more complete its adaptation to man,—to man individually and collectively, to man in all stations and relations. We do not, therefore, at all regret the warfare that is being waged at present in almost all Protestant lands, between the friends and opponents of Sabbath observance. Let the former be but valiant and stedfast and persevering in the prosecution of their work, and success will crown their efforts. The truth of this remark has been forcibly brought before our view in several instances since our last publication, which it is alike our duty and our privilege to record.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

Our readers are aware of the efforts that have been made by the Proprietors of this magnificent edifice to have it thrown open on the Lord's day, and that, under the pretext of affording relaxation and amusement to the toil-worn handicraftsman and family. That Company, it would seem, have been thwarted in every attempt they have made for the accomplishment of their object. Finding the remonstrances against the project very strong and numerous, they resolved to throw its gates open only on the afternoon of Sabbath. This was equally unpalatable to the friends of the Sabbath, and they

resorted to another expedient, that of shutting the Palace and opening the Garden, thinking that as the Gardens at Hampton Court and other places were accessible on Sabbath, the same privilege might be granted to them; and Lord Derby seemed to be of the same opinion. In this, too, they have been frustrated, having discovered an Act passed in the reign of George the III., rendering it illegal to take payment for admission into public Gardens on the Lord's day. All these things rendered it necessary to obtain an Act of Parliament for the accomplishment of the object. In order to bring a pressure from without to bear on the Legislators of the land, an Agent was hired for the purpose of addressing the labouring population in and around London, and of enlisting their sympathy and support in behalf of the measure. This too signally failed, and the Company have at length obtained a Charter, in which they have pledged themselves to observe the law of the land respecting the Sabbath. A decided victory has thus been gained; but let the friends of the Sabbath be watchful, and remember that the love of money is the root of all evil.

RAILWAYS IN SCOTLAND.

We rejoice to find that the champions of the Sabbath in those Railway Companies countenancing the running of the Trains on the Lord's day, are still assiduously at work, and protesting, at the semi-annual meeting of the Companies, against this monster evil. A more determined effort than usual was recently made at a meeting of the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee Railway Companies, and after a great

deal of shuffling on the part of the desecrators of the Sabbath, they carried the motion only by a very small majority. A noble testimony, too, has lately been made at a meeting of the Caledonian Railway Company. We believe that more accidents have occurred on this line than on any other in Scotland. May not this circumstance be laid at the door of Sabbath desecration? Let the friends of the Sabbath in these Companies be united, and persevere, and, under the blessing of the Lord of the Sabbath, ultimate success will crown their efforts.

POST-OFFICE IN BRITAIN.

Our readers will remember the all but successful agitation which was carried on in 1850 in behalf of a suspension of all Sunday labour in the Post-Office. They will remember the countenance which it received in high quarters,—that, in answer to 700,000 petitioners, the House of Commons agreed on the 30th May of that year, by a majority of twenty-five votes, to present an address to Her Majesty, praying for the entire suspension of the Sunday delivery of letters,—also for an inquiry whether the transmission of the mail on Sabbath could be suspended without detriment to the public service; and that to this address her Majesty returned a most gracious reply, promising compliance therewith. It will be remembered that, on the 23d of June, an order was accordingly issued from the General Post-Office, to the effect that the Sunday delivery of letters and newspapers should be discontinued. The country at large was satisfied; a few Sunday newspaper proprietors almost alone complained. The letter-carriers, a most active and industrious class of men, received the boon with gratitude. With a fulness of heart which did them credit, in some places they walked to the house of God in company, the first Sabbath-day alter, to record their