

Venerable F. B. Fuller, D.D., Archdeacon of Niagara, of date 16th June 1864. It was written in reply to one addressed to him by the Secretary, requesting him to have the kindness to inform us as to the way in which the closing of the Welland Canal was accomplished. The letter will tell its own tale in a manner not to be misunderstood; and it unfolds the only way left as far as we can discern, by which the object we so ardently desire can be brought about, if the far superior method above pointed out should fail.

The following is a correct transcript of this invaluable document, which the Rev. Dr. has kindly given us permission to publish.

Toronto, 16th June, 1864.

JOHN MAIR, M.D., Secretary of the Kingston Sabbath Reformation Society.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your note of inquiry regarding the manner in which I and other inhabitants of Thorold, in the County of Welland, secured the closing of the Welland Canal on the Lord's Day, many years ago, I am sure it was in this way: We held a public meeting; we called to our aid as many Magistrates as we could, examined the law on the subject of the observance of the Lord's Day, and being satisfied that the vessels trafficking through the canal on the Lord's Day were liable for a breach of the law, inasmuch as they carried the goods on board of them 'for gain or hire,' we had the captains arrested for a breach of the law, after giving them warning that if they attempted to go on with their traffic we would do so. Of course we cast them; and they were directed by the Superintendent of the canal, W. B. Robinson, Esq., (acting under advice from the Government,) to appeal the case. We met them in the higher court, and again succeeded. Whether they went any further or not I do not remember, but this I do know, that for many years past there has been no traffic on the Welland Canal, from Saturday night at 12 o'clock to the same hour on Sunday night. If I remember right, we had a lock-tender prosecuted for opening the lock on the Sabbath Day, with like success. The shutting of the canal on the Sabbath was very acceptable to those employed on it; and the masters of vessels and even the owners soon acquiesced in it. I mentioned this fact at the meeting of our Synod; because I thought that it was the most practical way to meet what I consider not only a great insult to the Majesty of God, but a great injury to our country.

I have no doubt about the existence of the statute under which we acted, and it only requires resolute Christian men to secure for the St. Lawrence Canals, what has so long been secured for the Welland Canal.

I take it for granted that the same law is found upon our Statute Book that we acted under; or else Satan would soon put it into the hearts of some of his willing slaves to force the opening of the Welland Canal to Sunday traffic.

Trusting that you and your friends may succeed in your laudable endeavors.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

F. B. FULLER.

Having endeavored to show that dishonor has been done to God, and injustice to many of Her Majesty's subjects by their being kept at work on certain canals, and in other departments under the direction and control of Government, on the Lord's Day; and to point out two