

the same time lamented the desecration of the Sabbath by funerals, the sale of intoxicating liquors, steamboat excursions, and livery stables. On motion, the report was adopted, and thanks tendered the Convener for his diligence. It was also agreed that the report be printed *in extenso* in the *Record*, *The British American Presbyterian*, and the *Synod Minutes*; and that ministers read the report from their pulpits on the Lord's Day. The Sabbath Observance Committee was appointed for the ensuing year as follows:—Mr. Grant, convener, and Messrs. Fletcher, A. D. McDonald, Moffat, and Straith, ministers, and Messrs. H. Young, Chisholm, Douglass, and A. Campbell, elders.

NEXT MEETING OF SYNOD.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of Synod at St. Catharines, on the first Tuesday of May, 1876, at half-past seven o'clock, evening. Protest and appeal against the Presbytery of Bruce. The Synod then took up a protest and appeal against a decision of the Presbytery of Bruce, in erecting certain dissentients of the Huron congregation into a separate organization at the Village of Ripley. After the appellants had been heard at great length, and the Presbytery of Huron in reply, it was decided by the casting vote of the Moderator *pro tem.*, Mr. McMillan, of Mount Forest, to dismiss the protest, and appeal, and affirm the action of the Presbytery of Bruce. This closed the more important business.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

SUBMITTED TO THE SYNOD OF HAMILTON, AT ITS MEETING IN ELORA, MAY 5TH.

Y^r Committee are gratified to be able to report that the passenger traffic on Sabbath, on some railways within our bounds, has been considerably lessened. Five leading lines of railway pass through the bounds of this Synod. On two of these lines no regular passenger trains run on Sabbath; on each of two others there are two passenger trains, one running each way; and on the fifth there is one passenger train. On some of these lines freight trains run on Sabbath in large, if not in increasing numbers, to the great annoyance of many of our people. Your Committee note with pleasure the efforts that have been made by the Grand Trunk authorities not only to reduce Sabbath labour on their line, but also to establish Temperance societies among their employees, and in other ways promote their moral and material interests.

Your Committee also report with pleasure that Sabbath labour has been entirely abolished on the Welland canal, under the management of the present Superintendent.

Your Committee, however, must report that though Sabbath labour on some of our leading thoroughfares has decreased, other forms of Sabbath desecration, equally heinous, and perhaps more annoying, prevail to a very considerable extent within our bounds. The attention of the Synod is specially directed to the fact that in our towns and villages young men gather in groups on the streets to the great annoyance of persons passing to and from public worship, or work in the Sabbath school. During the spring and summer months chiefly, such persons congregate at the street corners, under verandas and around church doors, and annoy, and in many cases insult persons who, in the discharge of religious duty, are compelled to pass by them. In some communities this odious state of things exists to an extent that has become positively intolerable, and it not unfrequently happens that the sons of members and office-bearers in our churches are found forming a part of these Sabbath-breaking groups. It seems to your Committee disgraceful in the highest degree that respectable citizens who pay their full share of taxes for the maintenance of law and order in the