

tions of the Lord's day is the large amount of driving which is practiced. On fine days and in favorable circumstances, Livery stables appear to be doing more business on the Sabbath than on other days of the week. Very few, it is believed, of the people under the inspection of Synod indulge in this sinful amusement; yet it is most hurtful to the spiritual interests of others, and is an example of corrupting tendency. This is also a mode of Sabbath profanation which, to the knowledge of your Committee, exists to some extent in different parts of all the three Provinces. In Charlotte-town, a change of the market days has been again effected, resulting in the appointment of Saturday as one of the market days of the week. All the evils which were formerly deplored, and which were almost entirely removed by the change of the market day from Saturday to Friday, will, doubtless, again soon appear.

In view of such an amount of open sin against the Lord, and consequent injury to the souls of men, the pastors who witness such amusements and travelling within the bounds of their congregations, should continue to declare fully and faithfully the law of the Lord's day. The members of their churches should unite with them in this testimony, and exert their influence as much as practicable to prevent these attractive, yet ungodly practices. Elders, Sabbath school teachers and parents, should earnestly endeavor so to teach and train the young that they may grow up loving the day of the Lord. Your Committee have resolved to use the press as a helper in this good work. Arrangements have been made for writing articles on the subject with the view of their publication in the newspapers which bear the Presbyterian name in the three Provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island. This is a step which your Committee has taken in advance of previous efforts, in the confident expectation that good results will follow.

Your Committee thus publicly acknowledge the receipt, by the convener, of copies of the report of the "Kingston Sabbath Reformation Society" for the year ending January, 1870. This is a society of twenty years standing, and is evidently imbued with an earnest and aggressive zeal for the glory of the Lord of the Sabbath. About two months ago, Dr. Mair, secretary of the society, corresponded with the convener, asking his opinion as to the expediency of holding a Sabbath Convention during this year. Statements and resolutions were also submitted for prayerful consideration. The convener having first ascertained the opinion of some members of Committee, replied in favor of the proposed convention; but expressing the fear that in existing circumstances, the Synod might not appoint

any delegates to the convention. The Committee offer no suggestion on this point; but submit it to the Synod to decide whether or not they will appoint one or more delegates to attend the Convention should it be called.

Your Committee feel that it must be gratifying and stimulating to the Synod to know that other Synods, Conferences, and Societies, in different parts of North America, take active steps for the promotion of the due observance of the Lord's day. In particular, a vigorous and zealous society exists in the city of New York. The Committee is composed of twenty gentlemen, laymen of the city, of different denominations, associated for the promotion of one object, viz., 'by personal influence, by the aid of the pulpit, and the press, and in all judicious, prudent and practicable methods, to promote the observance of the Sabbath.' While your Committee desire more devotedly than ever to realize this as also their object, they express the hope that all the members of Synod will actively labor and fervently pray that the holy Sabbath may speedily occupy its scriptural position, and be the means of blessing to an increasing number of immortal souls.

The Report was cordially approved.

### MINISTERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

This Report was submitted by Rev. G. Patterson.

#### Report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 1871.

The Committee on the Presbyterian Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, beg leave to report as follows:—

During the past year there has been received for the fund, from members dues \$1166; (of which the sum of \$100 was in advance for 1871); from interest and dividends \$491.44, Fines \$22.12, donations \$29.96, making the total receipts \$1709.52. During the same time there has been paid as annuities, for the whole year, to four Widows and eight Orphans, the sum of \$590, and for a half year to one Widow and one Orphan, the sum of \$70, or a total of \$660. The incidental expenses have been \$1.75, making the total expenditure \$661.75, leaving a balance to the credit of invested funds of \$1047.77, making the whole amount of our invested funds \$13,459.36, which with the cash in the Treasurers hands \$14.15, makes the whole amount at the disposal of the Committee at the close of last years accounts \$13,473.51. Besides there is the sum of \$250.04 of interest accrued, and actually invested, which is not included