

securing the right observance of the Lord's Day throughout Canada. In a letter from Elora, under date January 25th, 1870, signed by the Rev. James Middlemiss and Rev. George Smellie, which appeared in the Home and Foreign Record of that Church for March of the same year, addressed to ministers belonging to it and other denominations, it is set forth that "such as have any due regard for the honor of God and right views of what is essential to our most precious interests, spiritual and temporal, have hitherto had too much reason to mourn that the Sabbath is not generally hallowed as it ought to be in this Christian country; and that there is now more reason than ever to entertain most serious apprehensions in consequence of the increasing amount of Sabbath desecration in connexion with railway traffic."

After this preamble the letter proceeds to show that the Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church, having had its attention drawn to the subject by sundry representations, had instructed its Committee to seek the co-operation of other evangelical bodies in calling forth an expression of Christian sentiment of the people of Canada in order to check a great and growing evil. And the Committee hope that those to whom their letter is addressed, will, with other leaders of public opinion, seek to awaken the public mind to the danger threatening the Canadian Sabbath, and to secure an expression of sentiment upon it in each locality. They further recommended that arrangements should be made for public meetings in the month of February last, to be followed by remonstrances and petitions. Letters of sympathy and willingness to co-operate were received from Ministers of different denominations. Your Committee know not whether any further measures have been taken to accomplish the end in view. They desire to aid by every means in their power in the advancement of the object aimed at in this appeal, deeply sensible of the urgent necessity there is for a general, united, powerful and simultaneous effort being made by all the Churches of Christ to bring about "a consummation so devoutly to be wished," as the securing of a complete Sabbath day's rest to all the subjects of Her Majesty in this Dominion. A remarkable document was received by your Committee, published by the New York Sabbath Committee a few months after that of the Canada Presbyterian Church above referred to, calling the attention of ministers in the United States specially to the fact that the last General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in its Report on the state of religion within its bounds, says:—"Nearly all the Presbyterian narratives speak of the frightful prevalence of Sabbath desecration. This vice grows with the growth of immigration from the nations of Europe." Few of these narratives "record any special organized efforts to counteract it." "Similar testimony is borne by other ecclesiastical bodies." The Committee address ministers of the Gospel in the U. S. upon this momentous question, as follows:—"In this state of the case a great responsibility manifestly rests upon the pastors of the churches. It is theirs to enlighten the public sentiment, and stimulate the public conscience on a question sustaining so vital relations to all the interests of religion as this of the Sabbath. It was said not long ago by a shrewd observer and actor in the politics of this state, himself, not a religious man, that the Christian people of this state had the power to control its legislation, and he urged that the matter be pressed upon the attention of ministers and ecclesiastical bodies, that through them the people might be roused to the defence of an institution of such priceless value, and which he thought we were in great danger of losing."