

**PROGRESS OF THE EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT OF THE
CHURCHES AGAINST SABBATH BREAKING.**

Your Committee in their Annual Report of 1871, referred specially to a prelude to a general movement in the churches against Sabbath-breaking, expressing themselves as follows: "Such a movement is much needed. The initiatory step, to which your Committee refer, has been taken by the Committee on Sabbath Observance of the Canada Presbyterian Church, but as far as this Committee knows, has not yet extended to any of the other Churches, at least, so as to secure united action for abating Sabbath desecration and securing right observance of the Lord's Day throughout Canada." In 1872, perceptible progress had been made in the movement. "The Committee on Sabbath Observance of the Canada Presbyterian Church met in Toronto, in October, and addressed remonstrances to the heads of public works, and entered into correspondence with other churches." They reported to the General Assembly which met in the same city 3rd June, 1873. Their Report was referred by the Assembly to another Committee, whose Report as submitted to that Assembly, made its appearance in the Home and Foreign Record of the Canada Presbyterian Church, October, 1873. In these Reports the attention of the Assembly is called to the following encouraging facts: "Nine churches have promised their cordial co-operation in the movement; two Bishops of the Episcopal Church have concurred in it; traffic has been considerably reduced on lines of railway, in some confined to cases of temporary and extreme urgency. In no case has any attempt been made to question civil or sacred law, or to justify the evil on any other ground than the exigencies of commerce; desire expressed by managers to confine traffic within the narrowest possible limits; Legislative action to control traffic on lines subject to Government, begun; and Associations formed in some localities to enforce civil action and elevate public opinion. Still, the attention of the Assembly was called to the prevalence of Sabbath desecration on many railways, and especially to the difficulty of suppressing the evil from connection with great through routes of American travel, and extensive Sabbath traffic thereon. This second Committee recommend to the Assembly "to continue the appointment of a Committee on Sabbath observance, with instructions to continue efforts in the direction in which such gratifying results have been secured, and to carry on negotiations with