

The Committee on Sabbath observance, appointed at last meeting of Synod, gave in a report through Mr. McMullen, stating what had been done by them, in reference to the increasing profanation of the Sabbath by Railroad and other public Companies. On motion a Committee of Synod was appointed, to bring in a deliverance on the subject, and report at the evening sederunt. At that time the Committee reported as follows:

"The Sabbath is a wise and merciful institution appointed by Almighty God, eminently calculated to promote the highest interests of individuals and of communities, and the open neglect and violation of it, will inevitably bring down the judgments of heaven upon a people.

"The Synod contemplate with deep concern the many forms of public profanation of this sacred day prevalent throughout the Dominion, such as the running of railway trains and steamboats, and the passing of vessels through our canals, by which many persons are required to labour and are deprived of the privileges of this divine institution.

"In the interests of civil order, public morality and religion, the Synod would solemnly and earnestly remonstrate against these and all such violations of the Lord's day, and hereby instruct the Moderator and Clerk to send a copy of this minute to the boards of management responsible for the evils complained of."

The Report of Committee was adapted by the Synod. The Committee on Sabbath observance was also reappointed, with Mr. McMullen as Convener.

A complaint from certain parties in New Hamburg, in the Presbytery of Guelph, represented as "Members of the German Reformed Church," in reference to a debt due on the Presbyterian Church there, and for which they were held legally responsible, was read. Several members of the Guelph Presbytery were heard in explanation of the matter. After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Inglis, seconded by Mr. McRuer, and unanimously agreed. "That the New Hamburg Congregation be requested to assume the debt on the church, on the understanding that they possess the sole right to said church; and that the Presbytery of Hamilton be requested to pay \$50 of said debt, the Presbytery of Paris, \$50, the congregation of New Hamburg, \$100, and the Guelph Presbytery the balance of the debt. (The amounts above mentioned, are only payable on the understanding that the whole debt is canceled, as arranged in the above motion).

Mr. Bone, Missionary to Seamen in the Welland Canal, was heard in reference to his work, and the thanks of the Synod tendered him, for his clear and succinct address.

Mr. Lowry gave in the report of the Synod's Committee on the state of religion. On motion the report was received, and the thanks of the synod accorded Mr. Lowry for his diligence. The recommendations of the Committee were then taken up and considered seriatim, and adopted, viz. :—

I. That the Presbyteries of the Synod be recommended to continue holding meetings for conference on the state of religion, either specially convened for that purpose, or at a convenient diet of the ordinary meetings of Presbytery; that persons shall be previously appointed to address such meetings; and that the office-bearers and Sabbath School teachers connected with our Church residing in the district in which such meeting may be held, shall be invited to attend. Kirk Sessions are also recommended to hold similar meetings.

II. That Presbyteries be directed to make arrangements, through the Ministers and Elders of each church, aided by such members of the church as they may think suitable for the work, for a thorough visitation from time to time of their congregational district, with special reference to the careless, and such nominal Presbyterians as have no regular connection with any congregation, and for the purpose of bringing such under the influence of the gospel.

III. That, lest there should be a temptation, in any districts of the Church, of allowing the work of instructing the young in the knowledge of the scriptures.