

Him. But the grave could not hold Christ. He rose again. And with Him rose all the good that was in Him—Law and Gospel—Precept and Promise—Salvation and the keeping of a Sabbath in earth and heaven.

Just as the Sabbath law stands in the Decalogue, between the first and second Tables, binding them together, essential to the honoring of them both,—or as the pedestal on which they both rest, without which rest they fall ; so, with philosophical precision, does it stand in the nature of things—in the nature of man as an intelligent creature of God and connected with his kind ; while further the sinfulness of fallen man and his need of God's teaching and mercy, though not the condition which necessitates the Sabbath, certainly makes the Sabbath a more necessary and precious gift of grace from the Father in heaven. For if there be a God or Saviour for us and fellow-sinners to know, and seek and obey ; if we are all brethren, all needing each other's help—needing the common salvation, and lying together under obligations to honour our Lord, and to serve one another ; then we must have a common worship of the one God and Father of all. We must learn His will concerning us ; we must learn our duties to each other—we must singly and together learn all the words of His law, and listen to His gospel, and if so, then there must be a stated meeting-time and a sanctuary—a sacred day and a sacred place for holy convocation—a holy day for rest from secular toil, for the mutual recognition of our brotherhood, and for combined worship and approach to our Father in heaven.

So necessary for us is the Sabbath—for our physical and moral well being, that had not God ordained it, the instincts of our nature once quickened by a hope in God—or a sense of our need of God, would have suggested and led to its institution—and made it the pearl of days.

PATRICK GRAY, Convener.

THE STATISTICS OF THE CHURCH.

The following, from the Report of the Committee on Statistics compiled with much labour and diligence by the Convener, the Rev. John Gray, will give a brief but comprehensive view of the condition of the Church. We append the tabular statements both of the Statistics and Finances.

“ From a careful examination of the Statistical Returns your Committee are enabled to present the following general view of the Church's outward aspects.

There are seen about 600 sacred edifices of all sizes and forms dotting the surface of the country from Metis to Sarnia, and within whose walls divine worship is celebrated from week to week, by about 240 messengers of the Cross. To them is entrusted the pastoral oversight of about 25,000 households and upwards of 41,000 communicants, along with the superintendence of the religious instruction of nearly 30,000 young persons. The regular visitation of those numerous families, and of the sick and aged, the oversight of about 400 week-day meetings, and the providing of spiritual food for the thousands that wait on their ministry, comprise a series of daily and arduous labors, the burden and care of which are well nigh overwhelming. In these trying and varied duties, they are aided by the prayers, sympathy and co-operation of between 1,500 and 2,000 elders, of between 10,000 and 12,000 other office-bearers, and of a large and zealous body of Sabbath School Teachers.

What amount of spiritual good may result from these diversified and multiplied labors, is only known to the Great Head of the Church, under