

and the more active these committees, or others, are in their efforts in connection with the right observance of the Lord's day, the less, undoubtedly, will those of opposite sentiments and practice succeed in their unhallowed measures.

Since the opening of this Session of Synod, your committee have had conveyed to them, by the clerk, a letter with accompanying documents, received from the secretary of the Kingston Sabbath Reformation Society. One of these documents, the eighteenth annual report of the Society named, suggests, on account of Railway traffic on the Lord's day, the evident necessity that a Sabbath Alliance should be formed in the Dominion, with branch associations in all the minor cities and towns of the different provinces. The other document, an address of the same Society, 'bespeaks the prayerful consideration of the subject, and hopes that each church will, at its annual meeting, pass resolutions on the subject of Sabbath desecration, and recommend to their congregations the formation of Sabbath Defence Societies in each city and town, and every populous locality; and also the calling of a Convention, to consist of clerical and lay delegates from all the provinces, for the thorough investigation and elucidation of this most important branch of christian ethics, at an early date.' Petitioning the civil authorities on the subject is also recommended. Your committee submit these recommendations to Synod, with the suggestion that, at least, some of them be adopted.

Before closing their report your committee would respectfully reiterate recommendations of a permanent nature previously offered.

More may be required; but they trust that the vigilance and zeal of individual ministers, and the supervision of Presbyteries, will sufficiently guard against the public profanation of the Lord's day in their respective localities. Those pastors situated in towns and centres of population, or in districts occupied by different religious denominations, would do well to direct special attention to that form of Sabbath desecration which consists of pleasure seeking and

social visiting on the Lord's day. These practices have been a snare to many; and may still be instrumental in turning the young especially from the paths of righteousness and peace. Let all remember that the great enemy of the truth is earnest and active; and let them be stimulated to corresponding devotedness in the service of their divine Master.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT LAIRD, *Convener.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee in laying before you their fourth annual report would express gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for the good work which is being carried on among the young—training them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This work cannot be too highly estimated, for upon its efficient performance (with God's blessing) depends the future prosperity of our church. While we assign a high place to Sabbath school instruction we would nevertheless deprecate the idea of superseding family instruction, for in so doing we would be setting aside God's own arrangement. The family is among the first institutions which God has given and is designed by Him to do a work which none can do so well as the pious christian parent.

Yo committee have issued the series of lessons for the year on the same plan as before, 4000 copies of these lessons have been issued and sold this year, showing a large advance on last year, and teachers have been aided in their work by suitable notes on these lessons in the *Record*. We are gratified to find that these notes are meeting with very general acceptance.—The sales of these lessons have met all expenses.

By the decision of last Synod on an overture on the "current literature of the church" the subject of Sabbath School Books was entrusted to us in the following terms, "That that part of the overture which refers to Sabbath School Libraries be referred to the committee on Sabbath schools with instructions to prepare a list