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## THE SABBATH.

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The present aspect of Sabbath observance in Canada is such as to demand some notice. The question in itself is of first importance. The growth and prosperity of religion bears a correspondence with the keeping of the Lord's day. The quickening of religious sentiment which has been experienced in Britain during the last few years drew a more enlarged attention to the claims of the day. Hence its expression in the Sabbath essays. It was felt that a dark cloud was settling over the prospects of the religious world by the prevalence of Sabbath excursions and pleasure seeking. Resistance was called forth to the opening of the Crystal Palace, and the grievous desecration by Sunday Bands performing in the most public resorts. An enlightened Christian sentiment prevailed to overturn the counsels of the ungodly. Thus, when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. In this land the approach of the foe is not in the same guise. There is, however, that which calls for activity in contending for the truth regarding the Sabbath. During the recent session of the Legislature, two separate bills affecting Sunday labour by government officials, one in each house, have been thrown out. A document from a high authority, to which a wide publicity has been given, has appeared with the date of the sacred day of rest affixed. The newspapers give evidence of pleasure excursions on that day, not only in Lower Canada, but in our Western and Protestant region. The public sentiment is thus affected. Fruits are brought forth, doubtless, ripened and matured, from example in high places. Speak we without book, understanding neither what we say nor whereof we affirm. Why then this voice from the Eastern Townships? "In no part of the British dominions, that are purely agricultural, have I seen so much Sabbath breaking as here during the present summer. A fine day is almost sure to bring out a number of farmers with all hands and teams, for they cannot trust the God of Providence with a few loads of hay for one single day. Nay, some even seem to glory in their sin. A few Sabbaths ago, a temperance meeting was called in a certain school-house in Farnham—why then, I know not, unless they did not wish Christians and Christian ministers to take part with them, for such would be at other duties; and at that meeting one speaker publicly boasted that he had drawn in a quantity of hay in the earlier part of the day. He did not regret the necessity,