

It is highly gratifying to your S. S. Committee to find an improvement in this department of our work. There is a decrease of thirteen Union Schools, but an increase of twenty-four Denominational Schools, and naturally an increase of officials, scholars, &c.

We find four Charges destitute of Schools of any kind, but trust they will no longer be thus reported. As a whole, the contrast with last year is favorable; yet we are sensible that greater efforts might and ought to be made, that greater results may be secured.

It is the opinion of your Committee that Denominational Schools should be established and maintained where practicable; yet, where not practicable, by all means engage in Union Schools, that the education of our children and youth be not neglected.

We furthermore recommend that sermons be preached, lectures delivered, and instructions given whenever and wherever practicable, that Sabbath Schools may continue to be nurseries for the church and a blessing to the world; and the more effectually to secure every desirable good we ought to procure our own catechisms and literature. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. FERGUSON.

E. S. HOWARD.

*Sydenham, June 5, 1865.*

### REPORT ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Observance, beg leave to report as follows:

We regard the observance of the Sabbath as promotive of the highest interests of man, and feel thankful to God that in His wisdom He has given us an institution so well calculated to promote our development in a physical and mental, as well as a moral point of view, by affording stated seasons for cessation from manual labor and mental application, as well as stated seasons for spiritual recreation. The high importance of a strict observance of the Sabbath is established by the fact that the Great Head of the Church has commanded us to "remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," not only to hallow it by abstaining from labor therein, but to hallow it with the fragrance of devotion. Your Committee sincerely regret that after all that has been done to secure the sanctity of the Sabbath, it is still so often and so wantonly desecrated, not only by individuals but by companies and corporations; for your Committee regard any employment of the Sabbath other than God's Word doth allow a violation of its sanctity.

*Resolved First,*—That as a Conference we will, as heretofore, do all in our power by precept and example to discourage all violations of the sacredness of God's holy day.