

3. MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS.

I. ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Conference is grieved to know that in many parts of this Island there is a great degree of Sabbath desecration. Believing the divine command to keep holy the Sabbath day, to be perpetually binding, it would not forget to remind our people of their duty in this important matter. It is therefore resolved that a sermon be preached in all our Circuits, the first Sabbath in February on Sabbath observance, and that all our congregations be admonished to observe the sanctity of the Lord's Day, and to appreciate its innumerable blessings and privileges.

The following Report of the Sabbath Observance Committee, is taken from the Journal of the General Conference, p.p. 191 :

That inasmuch as the security of the church and of the nation is dependent upon the observance of the whole of God's law, no part of which is more fundamental than that which commands the sanctification of the Sabbath Day, your Committee feel deeply impressed with the necessity of continued vigilance and unwavering fidelity in guarding this sacred trust.

It is matter of great congratulation that, in general, our Sabbaths in Her Majesty's possessions on this side of the Atlantic are so religiously kept. In some parts, however, by work performed on railways, canals, and in the post office, the holy day is shamefully and publicly violated, exposing us to the Divine threatening for polluted Sabbaths. "Then I said I will pour out my fury upon them." On our statute books are wholesome laws for Sabbath observance, and the hands of the Magistrate should be strengthened by manifested Christian sentiment for the faithful carrying out of these enactments.

Like the plague of leprosy, in houses also is the evil spreading, by late rising on Sabbath morning, unprofitable conversation, and the very reprehensible habit of visiting during its sacred hours, unmindful of the breath of the command in Leviticus,—
"It is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings."

Proceeding from culpable ignorance, or as the outgrowth of a criminal carelessness, some content themselves with attendance at but one service; others fail in securing the presence of the children on public worship save at the Sabbath School, and a great many professing Christians do sadly deprive themselves and their families of the "spirit of the Lord's day" by allowing the reading of newspapers, and of literature only slightly tinctured with Christianity, or even of an entirely secular character.

Under these circumstances, your Committee are of opinion that greater prominence should be given by all the Ministers of our Church to the proclamation and enforcement of the whole