

his pulpit being meanwhile supplied by the brethren, and the consent of his Presbytery having been obtained.

One thing is apparent—the Treasury proves inadequate for the support of the present staff of Professors, at the same time that the value of their stipends, by the well proven change in the rate of living, has become less, much less than before. It is as unpleasant for them to feel their support a burden to the church, as it is more than ever inconvenient for them to wait on the tardy payment of their allowances.

The Committee on the College Deed will report for themselves, and the only other point is that which pertains to the Examination of Students by Presbyteries. The Synod of last year appointed that each Presbytery should send to the College Committee a report on this subject; and the injunction has been complied with by the Presbyteries of Toronto, Montreal, and of Brockville and Ottawa; but not as yet from any others. It is important for obvious reasons that attention should be given to this very provision, necessary at once as a check on indiscriminate admission to the seminary, and a stimulus,—yet not less an encouragement to students at all stages of their course.

M. WILLIS, *Convener.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Sabbath question wears, in some respects, a more hopeful aspect than at any previous period in its history. It has again secured for itself a hearing in Parliament. Animated and lengthened discussions have been held in both Houses—the influence of which cannot fail to prove salutary. In the Lower House, Mr. Brown's Bill, like the Prohibitory Liquor Law, in a former Session, was lost by the casting vote of the Speaker. It had a majority in five distinct divisions;—the sixth, and final, division stood 53 to 53. This we regard as a decided step in advance. On the former occasion, on which this measure was tested, the members were 25 for, to 26 against it, so that in a House double the size it has gained ground. In the Upper House a Committee was appointed who submitted a Report in favor of abolishing Sabbath labor in the various public departments where it exists. Founded on this Report a resolution was introduced to address His Excellency the Governor General on the subject. Fifteen voted in favor of this resolution—ten against it.

The Parliamentary agitation has revealed

the soundness of public opinion on the subject—the direction that opinion is taking—and the weight it possesses. Gratitude is due to those friends who have given their voices as well as their votes on the Sabbath side, and especially to the Hon. Adam Fergusson in the one House, and Mr. George Brown in the other, who have taken the lead.

Meetings have been held in various places at which resolutions favorable to the cause have been enthusiastically passed, and practical measures taken.

Many memorials have been sent to Government, bearing thousands of signatures.

The Press has lent its aid as well as the platform. In a large number of our Provincial journals, editorials and contributed articles have appeared very favorable to the cause, with a few exceptions. The tone of our newspapers on the question is healthy.

Your Committee have to report that the usual notice for simultaneous preaching on the Sabbath was published, and was, we have reason to believe, largely acted on. The attention of our Church has at different times been directed to the subject through the columns of the *Record*—specially in connection with the recent agitation.

Petitions have been sent by several Presbyteries and Sessions, and a tract on the Sabbath has been published in connection with our Synodical series.

In accordance with the instructions of last Synod, certain queries were addressed to Sessions like these, published in 1852, with the view of eliciting information as to the forms of Sabbath desecration most prevalent in the country, and the measures adopted for their suppression. To these several replies have been received, though not so many as would have been desired. The Committee think it may best serve the object of the Synod briefly to submit a few specimens of these answers.—(These may appear in a future number.)

Your Committee recommend,—

1st. That a Pastoral Address be published, having special reference to the forms of Sabbath desecration, as brought out in these answers—and affectionately urging the adoption of all feasible measures to secure its better observance.

2nd. Simultaneous preaching on the subject on the 3rd Sabbath in January—as heretofore.

3rd. A renewal of effort as speedily as possible, to obtain a stoppage of all labor on the Lord's Day, in the Post Office—on the Canals, and on Railways; and for this purpose