

the late Cardinal Gibbons, it leans on the point.

If these encroachments are not checked in time the day may come when the religious quiet now happily reigning in our well ordered cities will be changed into noise and turbulence when the sound of the church bell will be drowned by the echo of the hammer and the draw, when the Bible and the prayer book will be supplanted by the newspaper, and the morning when the volumes of the theatre and the drinking saloon will outnumber the religious war hippo and military thoughts of God, of eternity, and of the soul, will be checked by the cares of business and by the pleasure and dissipation of the world.

The following quotation may also be applied to the subject under consideration.

The Rev. A. A. Gordon, Bapt. C. is dead but still speaketh.

"In an anti-Sabbath convention I heard several well known free thinkers appealing vehemently to the people to rise against the tyranny of Sunday laws and restrictions. 'Let the day be as free as any other,' they demanded. 'Let the cars and steamboats run all habitually for conveying the tired people on excursions into the fields and upon the waters; let the reading rooms and the theatres be open for the entertainment of the weary working people; let the shopkeeper be free to take down his shutters and sell his fruit and refreshment to the hungry and thirsty crowds that shall pass by.'"

"Is it not strange that men who assume the name of advanced thinkers should put forth a plea for liberty, which is so thoughtlessly self-contradictory as this? They assume to be friends of the working men and then clamor for a freedom that shall compel them to work seven days in the week."

I tried to get the views of outsiders as to the effects of Sunday street cars in a general way, and the letters given above are the result. But I also sought to get the opinion of local men as to the probable effect of Sunday cars on our Sunday schools. I reproduce three typical answers:

Church Lodge, St. John's,
Winnipeg, Nov. 18, 1902.

Dear Mr. Roy: Your inquiry as to the probable effect of Sunday street cars upon the attendance of the scholars of the Catholic Sunday school has been forwarded to me.

As I have so recently taken over charge of the school I did not care to reply without consulting my teachers,

who are better versed in local conditions. Their opinion seems to be that Sunday cars would make little difference directly, but that indirectly their influence would be detrimental to the work of the school. It was also thought that to some extent they might impair the scholars' period Sunday afternoon away from school. Yours faithfully,

J. J. McLEVER.

St. Peter's Church, Sunday School,
Nov. 17, 1902.

Dear Mr. Roy: In reply to your inquiry, I am in complete agreement with you as to the indirect effect of Sunday cars on the attendance of the Sunday school. I do not say that I do not find this point very difficult.

I think will be no effect on any but the Sunday instructors for young people.

Those who are in earnest about attendance will come to school in spite of the supposed effect the cars may have. There is not in course I have already been able to find an insensible exception to the rule.

The attendance of pupils included may occasionally be affected, through their being out with friends, but I do not think this will so largely affect the average. Yours faithfully,

WM. A. BIRMAN.

St. Stephen's Church,
Winnipeg, Nov. 18, 1902.

My Dear Mr. Roy: Your letter in regard to the effect of the Sunday cars upon Sabbath school attendance came when I was away from the city. I have no doubt that while at first the street cars might not immediately affect the attendance at my school to any very great extent, still eventually I feel quite sure that young boys and older boys, who are not under very strict parental control, and the atmosphere of whose homes may not be strongly Christian, would certainly be tempted to take advantage of the cars and spend the afternoon elsewhere than in Sunday school or at home. Children who come from homes characterized by wise Christian discipline will not be affected immediately by Sunday cars as far as their attendance at school is concerned, but even these will be conscious of a new atmosphere on the Lord's Day if the cars are running. The tremendous impression of the silent, restful Sabbath will be gone, and the suggestion of busyness and work by the running of the cars will very materially help to remove the feeling of the sacredness of the day. It is this new atmosphere of ordinary work and busyness that the Sunday cars will bring with them that I fear more than anything else.

With very kind regards, yours very sincerely,

CLAS W. GORDON.