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## THE SABBATH QUESTION.

The Christian's motto must be "watch, work, and pray." There is no room for carelessness, indolence, or prayerlessness, and this applies to work at home as well as abroad. The church is liable to devote, not too much attention to working, but too little to watching. While working to extend the kingdom of Christ abroad, we need to watch lest the kingdom of Satan make progress at home. One of the points of defence that needs to be perhaps more carefully watched and guarded than any other is the Sabbath. The Christian Sabbath is, so far as institutions are concerned, and speaking after the manner of men, one of the most important defences of our Christian religion, with which is bound up our Christian liberty, and it is on this point that the world is ever seeking to make aggressions.

Like the ceaseless dashing of the waves on rocks, the waves of worldliness, pleasure, avarice, are ever dashing against this blessed day of holy rest, and seeking to wash it down beneath, their foam, hoping that the time may come when there will be no break to their roll but from one

week to another they will sweep unbroken round the years.

Other lands have tried that plan and have found that with that resting place for all that is good, they have lost all that is good, that the attempt to build order. morality, peace, safety, goodness, on any other foundation, was building a house upon the sand, and the rains descended and the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon that house and it fell and great was the fall thereof.

Let the peace and the order and the safety and the law, rest on a carefully established and kept Sabbath, and they will be like the house builded upon a rock. Such has been the universal experience of communities and nations, such is the testimony of the Word of God.

Our worthy legislators in the local Assembly have, by a considerable majority, refused to aid in hedging the Sabbath to prevent its desecration. Some of them did their part faithfully and well, but they were too few. Some, of whom better things might have been expected, practically joined by voice and vote, in the cry "Down with the Sabbath," "Away with its barriers," " Long live License."

The merits of a case may generally be fairly judged by its advocates. Now it is true that some good men have opposed the passage of these Sabbath laws, but they are the exception, not the rule. As a rule there will be found in their favor the Christian, the philanthropist, the generous, the self-sacrificing, the peace loving, the law-abiding. On the other hand no less certainly will there be found opposed to such laws, the lawless, the profane, the peace breakers, the selfish, the bad. In view of this it is well for good men in such a position to take a review of their company. The following words, by one of our ministers ring out the truth in this regard. He says: