

us sacredly to guard this day from such an unhallowed encroachment. Halifax appears to set a bad example in this respect.—Painful must be the emotions excited in the minds of the members of Synod by the information that at least one place of public resort for recreation, is open in this city on the Holy Sabbath. You cannot, certainly, do less than raise your unanimous and decided testimony against the injurious, dangerous, sinful, practice of frequenting such places on this day. The Halifax Presbytery should also, as it no doubt promptly will, take active steps to represent this opening of such places in its true light before the proper authorities.

The large numbers of a mixed population engaged at Railway-building in this Province, are in a position which exposes them to various temptations to neglect the duties of the Sabbath, and openly to violate its beneficial requirements. As a Synod, you can do something to break the force of these temptations. Never should any of these labourers be able to say, with special reference to the Sabbath,—“no man cared for my soul.” This day is the christian minister’s high day, and almost the only day on which he can have access publicly and privately to the class noticed. The Presbyteries within whose bounds these workmen are located, in conjunction with the Home Mission Board, will, no doubt, without special instructions, adopt measures to prevent Sabbath desecration and kindred evils, as much as possible. If the church, as is admitted, has suffered before from such causes, let her now labor diligently and prayerfully to prevent a similar detriment.

Surveying the ecclesiastical horizon in the direction of Sabbath observance your committee point to the contemplated increase of Railway traffic as likely to be a frightful source of new modes of profaning the Lord’s day. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. The history of Railways in other countries, may well excite the fear that traveling by them on the Lord’s day will soon be proposed in this Province.—From this history you may most decidedly learn the duty of fortifying yourselves with arguments, and preparing yourselves with influence, for the purpose of preventing the first symptoms of Railway traffic on the Lord’s day from developing themselves into this moral disease. Existing forms of Sabbath profanation are already too effectual in alluring many from the public and private exercises of God’s worship on the time specially allotted for that purpose, without adding another, to the injury of precious souls and the dishonor of the Great Creator.

Having thus made a few notes of progress, and offered these suggestions, your committee close their report, feeling satis-

fied that no necessity exists for dwelling on the great importance of the subject, and repeating recommendations made in former Reports on Sabbath observance.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT LAIRD.

Convener.

Our Foreign Mission.

ANNUAL REPORT OF BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, 1864-65.

The arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Geddie from their first homeward voyage may be justly considered as introducing a new era in the history of the New Hebrides mission.—After an absence of well nigh eighteen years from their native land,—after well nigh sixteen years of active, arduous, and oft-times perilous labours in the South Seas, these devoted missionaries, who were the first Presbyterian, and all but the first Nova Scotian agents in any foreign mission field, have returned at the repeated invitation of your Board, to re-visit the scenes of youth, renew the friendships of former times, and form new ties of christian brotherhood; but above all, to recruit their wasted energies and rejoin their children, and to quicken the zeal and elicit the missionary resources of our own and sister churches.

It is now the high privilege of your Board to announce that their anticipations, as to the happy results of the *home visit*, have already been largely realized. Under the blessing of the God of missions, health and strength have been restored by change of climate and occupation; the family circle has been re-united by the peaceful enjoyments of a temporary home; old friendships have been confirmed, and many new ties have been formed by social intercourse; while, by *visitation far and near*, the churches of our own and other denominations have been greatly refreshed and stimulated, and a greatly increased agency has been secured for the evangelization of the New Hebrides.

Mr. Geddie’s official correspondence, by its frequency and intrinsic value, from the date of his settlement in Aneiteum to his departure for Nova Scotia, had, no doubt,