

REPORT ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

To the Reverend the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland.

The Committee on Sabbath Observance have not, they trust, been inattentive to the important matter intrusted to them by your Reverend Court.

The Committee have pleasure in reporting that the Postmaster-General has, within a few months, granted permission to several Postmasters in Canada West, to keep their respective Post-Offices shut, during the Sabbath.

The Committee regard this permission as an important concession to the principle, that the public interests of the country do not require the performance of labor in the Post-Office on the Sabbath, and they hail it as affording the friends of the Sabbath a strong plea for claiming a full practical acknowledgement of this principle, not merely in connection with the Post-Office, but in all other departments and works under the control of Government.

In view of the permission now granted, the Committee regard it as exceedingly inconsistent and improper in Government to continue to sanction the Sabbath desecration, which is sure to take place where any Post-Office is kept open on the Lord's day; and they therefore trust that the permission now granted to such Postmasters as please to avail themselves of it, to close their Offices during the Sabbath, will soon be followed by a prohibition forbidding all Postmasters to open their Offices on God's holy day.

The Committee, during the Session of the Provincial Parliament closed, forwarded Petitions to the several branches of the Legislature, setting forth, in behalf of the Synod, that they regard the observance of the Sabbath, according to God's word, to be alike essential to the glory of God and to the best interests of men, temporal and eternal, and praying that an Act may be passed, prohibiting the performance of labor on the Lord's day, in all the Public Departments and on all the Canals, Railways, and other works, under the control of the Legislature.

The Committee further beg, to report, that in obedience to the in-

structions received at last meeting, they addressed a communication to the Directors of the Grand Trunk Railway, in which, after expressing, in behalf of the Synod, their high appreciation of the importance of the Grand Trunk Railway, as fitted and destined, in the Providence of God, to contribute greatly to the interests of this country, and their cordial desire that the enterprise may be crowned with success, equal to the most sanguine expectations of all interested in it, they declared their conviction that, in order to this, it must be conducted, in accordance with the will of God; and that, in a special manner, respect must be had to the divine institution of the Sabbath, upon the right observance of which, God has made the observance of all his other ordinances, and the benefits which they are to yield to men, in a great measure, to depend; and, therefore, entreated the Directors, under solemn feelings of their responsibilities to God, not to require or permit any work to be done by it, or in connection with it, at the Stations, or elsewhere, on the Lord's day, as by so doing, they would involve themselves in great guilt, render the Railway a mighty engine for the dishonor of God, the demoralization of the land, and the spiritual ruin of those engaged in connection with it.

If this action of the Committee meet with the approbation of your Reverend Court, Memorials, to the same effect, may be forwarded to the other leading Railway and Steamboat Companies in the Province.

The Committee would in conclusion submit, that among the many important subjects which claim the prayerful and careful consideration of your Reverend Court, there is none, in the opinion of your Committee, that has a more important bearing, than the right observance of the Sabbath, upon the great ends for which Christ has instituted his Church; and they would therefore humbly recommend your Reverend Court, not to relax in your efforts, in this matter, until God be honored and men blessed, by the observance of God's holy day, according to his own blessed word.

All which is respectfully submitted.

In name and behalf of the Committee,

WM. BAIN, Contrener.

Kingston, 6th June, 1860.

THE CENSUS FOR 1861.

The general Census of the Province will be taken by the enumerators on the 15th of this month. In 1851 great injustice was done to our Church by the census. We trust that all our adherents will this year be particular to see that they are placed by the enumerators in the column in the Schedules appropriated to our Church. Let each reader make this his matter of duty, and so help to secure fair play, that our real number may be known.

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