

as to the practicability at present of the larger Union. After mature deliberation the Synod resolved to appoint a committee of six, as was done by the other three churches; but a preference was expressed for the smaller Union. The following committee was appointed:

Rev. Dr. Bayne, Rev. James Bannet, Rev. G. Christie, and Rev. D. B. Blair, as alternates; and Messrs. H. B. Webster, D. Laird and M. H. Goudge, elders, with Judge Blanchard and Mr. J. S. Maclean, as alternates.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Rev. Robert LAIRD, Convener of the Committee on this subject, submitted the following

REPORT:

The authority which this Synod acknowledges as Supreme has said, "The Sabbath was made for man." When the Creator, Law-giver and Redeemer thus speaks, his people have a right to guard and secure their interests as respects Sabbath observance. Their heritage in this regard is a valuable one. It brings with it very many advantages, and it aids in securing riches which never perish. Each individual member of Christ's fold possesses an interest in His day which is inalienable; while on every distinct church devolves more or less the duty of watching these interests, and taking order that the general privileges of the whole are preserved in their integrity.

Your Committee having been appointed to guard these interests in connection with this Synod, have the pleasure of reporting that they are not aware of anything occurring during the year relating to this subject, which requires special notice or Synodical action. They have reason to believe that the Lord's Day is observed in at least an outwardly respectful manner by all the population claiming connection with this church. The truly spiritual observance of the day does not, no doubt, extend so far as the outward respect. But when the external profanation of holy time is avoided, and the means of grace public and private, are attended to in an orderly manner, divine authority is evidently acknowledged and honored, and the spiritual welfare of those thus fearing him, is brought near their hearts and homes. The Synod has cause to believe that this is very generally the practice of the members and adherents of our beloved Zion. The Holy Scriptures so fully declare the law of the Sabbath, and the explanatory and subordinate standards of the Presbyterian Church

so explicitly and decidedly teach how the "Sabbath should be sanctified," that all who receive instruction from these must already be well informed regarding the duty which God requires of them in reference to His hallowed day. Your Committee, therefore, are certainly not required to explain the law of the church, nor need they enter on a defence of the mode of observing the Sabbath, which is so fully known and firmly believed to be scriptural.

The Synod at its last meeting directed the Committee to make inquiry respecting the forms of Sabbath desecration reported to exist in the city of Halifax. Such inquiry has been made; and the answer respecting printing work performed on some of the hours of the Lord's day, as given by most of the proprietors of the secular newspapers is, that they cannot dispense with such work. A member of the Committee resident in Halifax, states that public opinion is strong and healthy on the right side of Sabbath observance. A branch of the Evangelical Alliance now exists in Halifax; and one of its objects is to secure the sanctity of the Lord's Day. He further states that a most gratifying circumstance is that many young men engage in Tract distribution on the Lord's Day; and that the Gospel is preached in the open air in different parts of the city and its vicinity.

Your Committee can thus evidently report progress. They also express the hope that other cities and towns will follow the example so worthily set by Halifax, if they have not already embarked in so good a cause. Encouragement to press forward in this good work of Sabbath observance is afforded from many sources. A Sabbath Observance organization has been established in London during the year; and has already accomplished much good. Inroads have also been made in Paris on the desecrating practices so numerous in that great city. But the promise and the blessing assured by the "Lord of the Sabbath" should, along with His command, most powerfully influence His people to "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

Attention was called to breaches of the Sabbath law in various towns, particularly in connection with the Post Office Department. The convener stated that the matter would receive the careful attention of the Committee. The Synod approved very cordially of the Report.

The Charlottetown Churches.

The Presbytery of P. E. Island asked the Synod to appoint a Committee to aid in bringing about a union of the two con-