

tion to the City Council and to the House of Assembly on the subject, and though nothing specific has been accomplished, yet your Committee are not without hope, from the favorable reception which the application obtained, that, if the subject is prudently and zealously prosecuted, the result will be the change of the principal market to some other day of the week. In other parts of the Island the Sabbath is, upon the whole, properly observed, at least in the external manifestation of obedience. In districts in which the Roman Catholic population predominates Protestants are exposed to temptation, and are frequently drawn into the practice of Sabbath desecration.

Your Committee would now briefly offer a few suggestions. They would earnestly recommend the adoption of measures to suppress or greatly restrain the degrading and unhallowed practices which prevail in and around Halifax on the Lord's day. Could not the keepers of livery stables be induced by argument, or compelled by law, to abandon their traffic on the holy Sabbath? Could not existing laws be enforced against those who engage in field and ice sports on hallowed time? The practice of the military band in playing on the streets in Halifax is also highly reprehensible, and should be decidedly opposed and discountenanced by all who bear the Christian name. Were a number of tracts on Sabbath observance procured and circulated in those sections of the country in which Roman Catholics are numerous, they would doubtless be instrumental in producing the happiest results. Your Committee would therefore recommend that the Committee on Colportage be directed to procure and circulate tracts of the kind referred to in such localities. Pastors of congregations, surrounded by Roman Catholics, or mixed with them, would do well to give special attention to Sabbath observance, and carefully instruct the young on the subject.

Such is a brief notice of the state of the question, and such are the few suggestions which your Committee humbly venture to make.

All which is respectfully submitted,

ROBERT LAIRD, *Convenor.*

EDUCATIONAL.

REPORT OF THE SEMINARY BOARD.

The following Report, submitted to the Synod at its late meeting, gives so thorough and clear a view of the educational operations of the Church, and of the efforts required to sustain these operations, that we lay it in full before our readers, and commend it to their most careful consideration:—

In submitting their Annual Report, the Board desire to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the large measure of prosperity accorded to the Synod's Educational operations. This remark is applicable to every department of effort, and while affording convincing evidence of the soundness of the basis on which the Synod's arrangements rests presents strong inducements to aim at the highest possible efficiency. By the Union so happily consummated, and the consequent combination of separate agencies and interests, your institutions occupy a position unsurpassed by any in the Lower Provinces. As the thoroughness of your arrangements and the character of your institutions have become more extensively known, they have exercised a gratifying influence. Of this the increase in the number of students is the best evidence. During the elapsed Session, fifty-two students matriculated, though all were not in attendance at the close of the Term. Of those attending, seven were from New Brunswick, four from P. E. Island, and the rest from Nova Scotia. Viewed in every aspect the prospect is most cheering. Steadily and rapidly are your institutions rising in esteem; and, providing for wants which they have been the means of originating—bid fair to be powerfully influential in moulding the social and religious future of our country.

On this the first opportunity of reporting to the United Synod, your Board