

mission in so many different parts of Christendom, and to hear the voice of the largest Presbyterian Church in the world giving utterance to its convictions in its Assembly held only two weeks ago in these decided terms, "That for calling forth systematically the benevolence of our beloved people we consider that the plan of the Weekly Offering in the sanctuary as an act of worship, is God's appointed law, and the true and Scriptural method which we commend for adoption by all our churches."

In view then of the fact that the action of this Synod upon the subject of Systematic benevolence is sanctioned by the oracles of the living God, that it is in line with the course pursued by sister churches who are earnestly striving to do the Master's work; that it has been so greatly blessed to the increase of our prosperity in the past, and that it is so full of promise for the future, the Committee would respectfully urge the employment of every legitimate means, whether in Church Courts and in congregations to hasten the time when obedience to the apostolic precept shall become universal.

The Report was approved and ordered to be printed in the RECORD.

### Sabbath Observance.

Rev. R. Laird submitted the Report on Sabbath Observance. Mr. McKay, Elder, of the Hill, gave an account of his efforts to prevent Sabbath desecration by a Circus. An Overture on the same subject from the Presbytery of Truro was read. The Presbytery complain of unnecessary labour on the Lord's day, and strong reasons against the running of unnecessary trains, &c. Open and authoritative violations of Sabbath law are protested against.

Edward Grant explained the amount of Sabbath traffic and travel. Trains, confectioners, telegraph posts, &c., on the Lord's Day. Circus companies have also been conveyed from time to time on the Lord's Day. Mr. Layton also explained the force of which the overture complained. The Government are amendable to the opinion: the people are responsible for the acts of the Government; and all are responsible to God. It is hoped the influence of the whole Church will be to stop outrages of the Lord's law. Creelman and Rev. James Mc-

McKay also spoke on the subject. Dr. Burns moved an appropriate resolution on the subject, referring all to the action of the United Church.

### STATE OF RELIGION.

Rev. James Maclean submitted the Report on this subject which was adopted. It was as follows:—

Your Committee beg leave to report that in accordance with directions of Synod they have issued queries, which they sent to each Kirk Session, with the request that they be answered through the Clerk of the Presbytery. From the answers we hope to obtain some idea of the state of religion in each congregation, and likewise the judgment of the Presbyteries on the state of religion in all the congregations within their bounds.

We have received answers from all the Clerks of Presbyteries excepting those of Cape Breton, Pictou, Tatamagouche and Prince Edward Island. Only from the Presbytery of Truro did we receive a Presbyterial report.

### HINDRANCES TO RELIGION.

The usual hindrances to religion are still met with in nearly all our congregations. These hindrances may be included in these,—“The world, the devil and the flesh.” These develop into different forms, and assume different appearances in different places to injure the cause of God and ruin souls.

In all ages the love of the world controlled the affections and life of many in the world. The accumulation of riches have been their chief desire. Usually men who are diligent in business are the best Christians, and the most active workers for Jesus. But many make their business the great end of life. They are willing in many instances to wait upon God in His ordinances. They respect the religion of Jesus and are willing to contribute to its support, yet they hesitate to come to a decision, and to give their hearts just now to Christ. They are anxious to serve mammon for some time to come, and when they are satisfied with his service they intend to return to God and to secure salvation. They would like to have God befriend as Jacob had, but they would not wish to wrestle a whole night with the angel as he did. They would wish to secure the blessing which Israel possessed, but they would not wish to part with their worldly stuff for even one night as the patriarch did. “The love of the world is enmity with God.”

In some localities the love of sinful pleasure greatly interfere with the work of the