

"No house, tavern, shop or other place whatever, the occupier whereof holds a shop or a tavern licensed for selling Liquors, shall be open before sunrise or kept open after eleven o'clock at night, all inmates not lodgers shall then depart, and no light shall be kept burning there after that hour. *On Sundays every such place shall be entirely closed, and no business done therein.*" Thus it is manifest, that in so far as the city of Halifax is concerned to secure the entire abolition of the sale of Ardent Spirits on the Sabbath, all that is required is the thorough enforcement of the law by the city authorities, and a sub-committee of the Alliance is at present charged with this matter.

The Committee deem it altogether unnecessary to dwell on the many evils connected with this traffic on the Lord's day. "Is it," say the godly McCheyne, "is it to be tamely borne in this land of light and reformation that these pest-houses and dens of iniquity, these mentraps for precious souls shall be open on the Sabbath, nay, that they shall be enriched and kept afloat by this unholy traffic, many of them declaring that they could not keep up the shop, if it was not for the Sabbath market day?"

The Sabbath Alliance of Scotland is directing all its mighty energies to this same evil. In the narrative of its proceedings recently come to hand, it is thus declared regarding the License law—"It is notorious that the system as it has existed hitherto, has operated as if it had been expressly framed to corrupt and ruin the greatest possible number. The primary and only justifiable object of granting a License for the sale of intoxicating Liquors, viz., that of providing for the necessary accommodation of the community, has been totally lost sight of. It has even been very generally assumed, and certainly acted upon, that every person who could produce a certificate of character had a right to obtain a License. The question has been regarded almost exclusively as one of finance, so that at last to the shame of our country, a large proportion of the public revenue is derived directly from the vices of the people."

TRAFFIC IN ARTICLES OF FOOD.

The committee regret to be obliged to state that there are also Articles of Food sold in Halifax on the Lord's day. But they would call special attention to the fact of the Fish-market being open every Sabbath morning from 6 to 9 o'clock—sometimes largely frequented not merely by the labouring population, but by others who have it equally in their power to supply themselves with that article on Saturday. This the committee hold to be a direct violation of the fourth commandment,—a violation severely reprobated by the Great Jewish Reformer Nehemiah, "There dwelt men of Tyre also there, which brought fish and all manner of Ware, and sold on the Sabbath to the children of Israel, and in Jerusalem. Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, what evil is this that ye do and profane the Sabbath." The committee are aware that this practice is defended by some, on the ground of its being a work of necessity and mercy both as it respects the Fishermen and the poor Labourer or Mechanic. But the committee cannot, of course, sustain such a plea.—They do not consider any work, a work of necessity that can be done on Saturday or deferred till Monday; and this rule of exception cannot be applied in the present instance. Moreover they are satisfied that were the city authorities