

early and zealous member of the Society's Committee, kindly authorised all petitions to the Legislative Assembly to be transmitted to him for presentation—as did the Hon. J. Patton for the Legislative Council.

Your Committee do not know how many Petitions were presented. They are aware that from the city of Hamilton they were numerous from different Churches. The one from London was signed by nearly 2000, probably much owing to the exertions of another estimable friend of the Society, and late member of Committee, Major Moffatt. It is but justice to Colonel Haultain to state that he exerted himself zealously in introducing a Bill, embracing the chief reforms wanted, into the Legislative Assembly (see Appendix No. 1), and, it is believed, was warmly supported by Mr Morris, the member for South Lanark. In consequence of the sudden prorogation of Parliament, owing to the defeat of the Ministry on the Militia question, Colonel Haultain's Bill, it is believed, never reached a third reading.

Having such staunch friends in Parliament as those mentioned above—men who have the fear of God before their eyes, and earnestly desire to secure the right observance of His Holy Day in all the public departments—your Committee are encouraged to look forward with hope to the ensuing Session. But that they may afford the utmost aid and support in their power to their Parliamentary friends, it is incumbent upon them and their coadjutors to use most diligent efforts to stir up all true-hearted men, clerical and lay, who reverence God's law and love their fellows, to have petitions prepared and transmitted, as soon after the meeting of Parliament as possible, from Cities, Towns, Corporations, Churches, &c., calling for the complete abolition of all labor in the public departments on the Lord's Day.

Anticipating the necessity for such a powerful and simultaneous movement early in 1863, by desire of the Committee a circular letter was addressed by the Secretary, in May, 1862, to the following Ecclesiastical bodies, to be laid before their respective Synods or Conferences, at their next meeting, earnestly begging of them to have petitions, praying for the abolition of all labor in all the public departments, sent in to the three branches of the Legislature soon after the meeting of Parliament. These religious bodies were the Dioceses of Toronto, Huron, Montreal, and Quebec; the Presbyterian Church of Canada, the Canada Presbyterian Church, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Methodist New Connexion, Methodist Episcopal and Congregational Churches—10 in all—(for copy of circular letter see Appendix No. 2.) Replies were received from the Rev. Mr. Snodgrass, representing the Presbyterian Church of Canada; from the Rev. Charles Hamilton, Clerical Secretary of the Synod of the United Church of England and Ireland of the Diocese of Quebec; and from the Rev. Mr. Scott, Secretary of the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church—(for official notices in the minutes of these Churches, &c., see Appendix No. 3.)

In a letter with which the Secretary was favored from the Rev. Mr. Scott, enclosing an official copy of the resolution of Conference on this momentous question, the following passage occurs:—"At the proper time we shall not fail to fulfil our connexional pledge"—that pledge being no less than that "a suitable memorial shall be prepared by a Committee, consisting of the President and Secretary of Conference, the Rev. James Elliot, and the Rev. G. B. Howard, submitted to the Conference Special Committee, and as approved, shall be printed and distributed for signature through the Wesleyan Church in Canada." A Petition was unanimously adopted by the Episcopal Synod of the Diocese of Ontario, praying for the abolition of Sunday labor in all the public Departments, Railways, &c. This Petition, signed by the Bishop of the Diocese on