

might be quoted, that there is an intimate and indissoluble connexion between real happiness—"the blessing of the Lord" which "maketh rich" keeping holy the Sabbath, and the righteousness and salvation procured for believers by the atoning blood of Christ. And it is worthy of notice, that, at the close of the same chapter (Isaiah, LVI), where allusion is made to these wonderful tokens of Divine mercy and grace, there is an appalling picture of blind watchmen, their ignorance, culpable reticence, sluggishness, greediness, and sensual indulgence, particularly in "wine and strong drink." As if it had occurred to the mind of the Prophet, though not expressed in words, that there was a bond of union between these vices and Sabbath breaking, disregard of the Sabbath and its duties leading to these, and many other violations of the Divine law, and by reflex influence these back again to more flagrant acts of Sabbath desecration, and that the corrective of these evils was to be found in "keeping the Sabbath from polluting it," or in its faithful and sacred observance.

Your Committee profoundly regret, that, as far as they know, no heed was given by the Ministry, or either House of Parliament, to the petition they forwarded through the Secretary of State to His Excellency the Governor General, and to one of the Senators, for presentation to the Senate, as no acknowledgment was received from either. A polite response and promise to present the Petition to the House of Commons was received from R. J. Cartwright Esq., M.P. The prayer of the petition after setting forth the grounds of it, was as follows, viz: "Your petitioners therefore humbly pray, that, on taking the premises into consideration, you will be pleased to pass a Bill providing that all Sunday labor shall cease in all departments of the public service, that all canals shall be closed to traffic, and that all railway trains shall cease to run from midnight on Saturday till midnight on Sunday."

In connexion with this, it is expedient to notice that "Mr Jones (Leeds and Grenville), Ottawa, June 21st, moved, that an order be issued for closing of the Rideau Canal on Sundays. Sir J. A. Macdonald said it was too late in the season to issue an order now; it would interfere with arrangements now entered into. He would therefore ask the mover to let the matter stand over till next session."

We do hope that some patriotic God-fearing legislator will warmly take up this most important question of the canals the ensuing session of Parliament at an early day, and see to it that the many petitions which have been laid upon the table of both houses of Parliament from time to time praying for the closing of all the canals against Sabbath traffic on the Lord's Day, may obtain a proper hearing, and that their prayer be granted, as justice, the law of God, and of the Dominion, require. For there can be no doubt of the injustice of having the Welland and Lachine Canals closed by authority on the Sabbath, and the St. Lawrence, and Rideau, Ottawa Canals, left open to traffic on that holy day, which is a *dies non* in law.

In the Report of this Society of last year there was the following passage: "The remedy which we must respectfully beg leave to recommend to the government for the removal of the inveterate malignant malady of Sabbath desecration is the following, viz: That a member of the government, with the concurrence of his colleagues, influenced by the highest motives of deference and respect for the 4th Commandment, (as the Commandment given to man by the Almighty for His own Glory, and the good of His creatures,) with a sincere desire to promote the highest