

fact: that though the work has grown upon their hands from 15 supplemented Congregations in 1863 to 40 in 1875; and from \$1100 required in the former year to \$4000 in the latter, yet by the increasing liberality of our own people, by the generous sympathy and aid of the parent Churches, and above all by the continued blessing of the Church's Great Head, they have been enabled so far to fulfil every obligation into which they have entered. Truly we have reason to thank God and to say, The Lord hath been mindful of us. Such has been the record of the past, and the future we think will be equally propitious. In one way or another the United Church must and will take up the work in which this Committee has been engaged; and with the earnest belief and hope that this will be done, and with a far greater measure of rigor and efficiency by their successors than by themselves, and that the Divine guidance and blessing which we have so largely experienced may be more richly vouchsafed in this and in all other matters to the United Church, your Committee would bring this report to a close.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. CHRISTIE, *Convener.*

THOS. SEDGWICK, *Secy.*

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Scriptural observance of the Lord's Day has received the serious attention of evangelical Christians in both this and the other country. Scotland has done much for Sabbath observance, and the Sabbath has done much for Scotland. In the commercial capital of this continent, as well as in this Dominion, strenuous efforts have been put forth from time to time to resist aggressions which are frequently made on the sanctity of the Lord's Day. Closely connected as this Synod is with a country and Church which have done so much to maintain the Christian privilege referred to, it ought to hold forward the same standard and try to preserve the due remembrance of the Christian Sabbath.

Your Committee's report possesses the general features as those for some years past. Little outward progress may be said to have been made during the year. The Sabbath has not, however, been neglected amidst the claims of kindred subjects. Many of its friends have been striving to promote its Scriptural observance. In connection with the improvement in the state of religion, somewhat extensive and only, the evidence is undeniable that the Lord's Day has been increasingly revered and rightly employed. Public

worship has been more largely attended on that day; while religious meditation and Christian conversation have with numbers superseded "thinking their own thoughts and speaking their own words." Many of the young have also had set before them a much better example of the sanctification of the Sabbath. Those who instruct and direct the anxious inquirer and young Christian should attach much importance to the proper use of the precious hours of the Sabbath. The progress referred to is all the more gratifying in that it is likely to be a permanent and unceasing source of gain.

On the other hand much watchfulness is still required. As facilities for the acquisition of wealth increase, inroads are likely to be made on the "one day in seven." As pleasure-seekers multiply with advancing population, further encroachments on the Lord's Day may be expected. In these circumstances the friends of the Sabbath ought to maintain a firm attitude. Instruction given in the past requires to be repeated with greater force of argument than ever. The truly spiritual observance of the day by those who profess to honor it ought to become more marked and decided. Example here is exceedingly valuable. The nominal observance without the reality has greatly encouraged desecrating practices. Let, therefore, all the members of the Church, as well as its officers, practise what they profess or teach, and thus bear a consistent and weighty testimony to the value of Sabbath observance. Without this the Lord's Day will undoubtedly become more secularized, and a plausible enemy to vital Godliness will come in like a flood.

Ministers, Elders and Presbyterian Magistrates residing in localities in which public shows are exhibited, would do well to watch the movements of these disturbers of the quiet of the Lord's Day. To magistrates especially must the Church look more anxiously to wield the authority with which they are invested for the repression of glaring outward breaches of the Sabbath laws. This like the temperance cause, is a sphere in which civil authority occupies a somewhat well defined position in this country. Those who have been chosen to enforce civil law, when required, should become well acquainted with their duties and responsibilities, and be always ready to administer the law of the land in a firm and impartial manner.

Your Committee feel that they should not close their report without an allusion to the loss which they have sustained in the removal by death of one of their most active and useful members. Rev. D. S. Gordon has for a number of years taken a very active and even leading part in promoting