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KINGSTON

Sabbath Reformation Society.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee would begin their Thirteenth Annual Report with hearty thanksgivings to the Lord of the Sabbath for continuing to them, though so unworthy, the high privilege of reminding the people of Canada, from year to year, of the inalienable right secured to them, and all mankind, by Divine charter, of one whole day out of seven for the worship of Jehovah; and the solemn obligation resting upon them to maintain that right unimpaired, and transmit it inviolate to their posterity.

As in former years, your Committee published and circulated widely a stirring address to the people of the Province, signed by the President and Secretary, giving a brief account of the chief efforts made to achieve a reform in the Post-office Department since 1853, when the Hon. George Brown's Bill for preventing Post-office labor and the transmission of Mails on the Sabbath was lost by a single vote, down to 10th March, 1860, when the Postmaster General issued a memorandum relieving Postmasters in Canada West from the obligation to open their Post-offices for the delivery of letters, &c., on Sundays. It was, moreover, stated that this concession to public sentiment was not enough. It was limited to Western Canada, and was "simply permissive, not peremptory, in its character;" and further, it left the Clerks at the mercy of the Postmaster in each locality, who, if he chose, might compel their attendance at the Post-office on the Sabbath; besides, it stood upon a very insecure foundation, being "the result of a mere stroke of the pen," as represented by the Postmaster General. Our endeavor, therefore, was to impress on the minds of the people of Canada that a law was needed recognizing the right of the employés in the Post-office to the rest of the Sabbath, un-abridged by any species of compulsory labor whatever. Reference was also made to authentic testimony showing that various acts of Sabbath desecration had been perpetrated on the Railways and Canals, such as the running of Freight Trains, Extra Trains, Special Passenger Trains, &c., on that Holy Day.

A form of Petition was transmitted to many members of Parliament and other influential persons of different denominations, to be copied by those who might choose to adopt it, and ample directions given how it was to be transmitted to the different branches of the Legislature. From this city a Petition was sent, signed by 700 persons, and one signed by the Chairman of the Annual Meeting, Thomas Askew, Esq., on behalf of that meeting. The prayer of the Petition was, as on former occasions, for a law to prevent all Letter delivery, the despatching of any Mail, the running of any Railway Train, or the sailing of any Vessel from any Port on the Lord's Day, and requiring that all Canal Locks should be closed from Saturday at midnight till Sunday at midnight. Colonel Haultain, an