

The Presbyterian.

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

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THE SABBATH.

While the Legislature is now sitting, it is very important that the friends of the Sabbath should bestir themselves and petition for the removal of those desecrations of the Sabbath which lie as a national sin at the door of our country. We allude to the opening of canals and post-offices, selling of real estate, proclamation of sales of personally on the Lord's Days. A committee of the House of Assembly is now investigating the subject, and those, who entertain similar views of the Sabbath to those which we entertain, should bestir themselves in their respective localities to influence public opinion. We do not think that there is any necessity for keeping open post-offices and despatching mail steamers on the Sabbath, while we believe that such practices are wholly out of keeping with the spirit of the commandment, "Remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy." When works of unusual magnitude are projected throughout Canada, and our country is entering on a new era in its history, it is of the utmost importance that public opinion should be sound and of a healthy tone on the subject of Sabbath observance. It will be much easier to prevent the whistle of the locomotive, speeding its way through the land, from being heard on the Sabbath-day, now, when these great internal improvements are just being projected, than it will be, years hence, if trains have been suffered to run on that Day unchecked by legislative provisions, and if great com-

panies, proverbially unscrupulous as to acts performed in the corporate capacity, have enjoyed the profits of Sabbath desecration. Entertaining views on the Sabbath question which we believe to be consonant with Scripture and in entire harmony with the sentiments of the religious public, we trust that Sabbath desecration in all its forms, whether now unfortunately legalised or merely connived at and tolerated, will be checked and put an end to throughout the length and the breadth of our land—and our people, our postmasters, stage-drivers, steam-boat captains and men, canal attendants, may possess a Sabbath, a whole Sabbath, which they remember to keep holy unto the Lord.

WORLDLINESS.

Were a deadly pestilence desolating our land—were the shafts of death flying thickly around, and were there mourning in every house—and a dread foreboding, a crushing fear weighing down every heart—men would cling eagerly to the slightest hope of protection from the stern progress of the devastating plague, and with trembling joy would avail themselves of any safeguard from its ravages. Yet a moral disease is polluting our country, pouring over it its deadly stream—overwhelming with its noisome flood thousands and tens of thousands, and still, strange infatuation! men regard it not—they journey on calmly and unconcernedly till sudden destruction comes upon them. The arrows of death are flying thickly around us, reaching every moment some vulnerable point, and yet there is no

wide-spread alarm pervading the whole community. A remedy sure, certain, unailing, has been provided—a remedy priceless and to be had without money and without price; but men slight and despise it till on the brink of the grave; and, alas! often, when too late, they are awakened to the stern reality, that the wages of sin is death. Sin has polluted this once fair universe; and many yield themselves unresistingly to do the works of the flesh and to reap the wages thereof. They will not be saved, and they will not give heed to the words of mercy, "Why will ye die?" They will not look in humble faith, and with sincere repentance, and with full purpose of and endeavour after new obedience, to Him who died for them, but they go on recklessly immersed in this world's cares, and this world's concerns, as if there were no eternity before them. Of all the long catalogue of men's frailties and vices few are more deadening, more subtly encroaching, and more dangerous to the soul than carnality, worldliness. It creeps around us so insidiously, so plausibly. Some cloak their worldliness under the cover of the text, "not slothful in business," losing sight of its latter words, "serving the Lord." Others shroud their engrossment with worldly things with a professed respect to the text, "But, if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel." Excuses all, that will in no wise compensate on the day of reckoning for the want of the marriage-garment. We do earnestly warn our readers against suffering the thorns of worldliness to