

ries greater fidelity and diligence in carrying out the discipline of the Church against drunkenness, and against those who continue in the liquor traffic, wherever evil consequences to morality are clearly traced to it.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY CRAWFORD, *Convener of Committee.*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SYNOD ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

It has been well remarked, that from the manner in which the Sabbath is observed, we may judge of the true state of religion in any locality. A respect for God's Holy Day is an indication of the existence of vital godliness; but want of regard for it shews that true religion languishes. Hence we learn the great importance of marking the manner in which the Sabbath is observed.

It affords your Committee pleasure to remark, that this is a subject that is increasingly engaging the attention of professing Christians in many parts of the world. More especially, in Britain and in the United States, is this the case, and the efforts used to secure a greater respect for the Sabbath, have not been without success. But the duty of your Committee more particularly relates to the state of Sabbath Observance, within the bounds of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces; and, as far as they have been able to learn from the most reliable sources of information within their reach, there is a general external respect for God's Holy Day, among its members and adherents. At the same time there is room for improvement. There is one evil which especially demands our attention, as being prevalent in some localities, we fear in many. There is too much "speaking of their own words" among our people, both in their private dwellings, and at the doors of the sanctuary on the Sabbath. While it is desirable that "they that fear the Lord should speak often one to another" on this sacred day, yet it should be of "things touching the King." Your Committee would respectfully suggest the necessity of urging upon the people, a greater attention to spirituality of conversation upon the day of sacred rest. As out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh, so there cannot be a sincere respect for the Sabbath where worldly conversation prevails.

Your Committee last year adverted to the desecration of the Sabbath, practised by certain parties in Halifax, by indulging in various amusements, such as fishing and shooting, as well as riding and driving out for pleasure. As far as they have been able to learn, no decided improvement has taken place in regard to these matters, since last meeting of Synod. There is, however, one particular, in which there has been progress in the right direction. It affords your Committee pleasure to inform the Synod, that the Military Music in the streets of Halifax, by which the Sabbath was desecrated, and which was so offensive to the religious community, has been discontinued. Soon after the arrival of Major-General Doyle, who succeeded Major-General Trollope as Commandant, the Committee appointed last year by the Synod to attend to this matter, called together the Protestant ministers, and a number of office-bearers and members of the various Christian congregations in Halifax. At that meeting a Committee was unanimously appointed to wait on General Doyle, and solicit the discontinuance of the Music.—That Committee did so, and was completely successful, since the General cordially acceded to their request and ordered the cessation of the obnoxious