

those students who had been employed as catechists, in the Presbytery of London, during the last summer.

Mr. William Clark, the Presbytery's agent for Colportage, gave a statement respecting the work, of which the following are the leading particulars:—

Since the beginning of May last, to the present time, there had been books published for the Presbytery, to the value of £950 6 5
There had been put into circulation books to the value of 445 15 1 1/2

Leaving a stock on hand, books to the value of £504 11 3 1/2

In putting into circulation these books, to the value of £445 15s. 1 1/2d., the following expenses had been incurred:—

For Agent's and Colporteur's Salaries £30 2 8
For Travelling Expenses 17 13 3
Discount allowed to Ministers, Sabbath Schools, &c. 16 19 3
Free Distributions 3 0 6

Deduct Discount allowed by publishers £124 15 8
..... 69 3 6 1/2

Leaving as nett expense incurred to the Presbytery £35 12 7 1/2

Five persons had been employed in the capacity of Colporteurs, some for a longer and others for a shorter period, and the books disposed of by them, had been circulated over twenty-five different townships.

The next ordinary meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held at London, on the second Tuesday of May, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

JOHN SCOTT, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

In the account of the proceedings at the Presbyterial visitation of Knox's Church, Toronto, which appeared in the last number of the Record, it should have been stated that Dr. Burns and others protested against the finding of Presbytery and appealed to the Synod. The following reasons, which we presume, will be in due time answered by the Presbytery, have been lodged by Dr. Burns, and concurred in by the other parties appealing:—

1. Because the sentence is not warranted by the evidence, and was pronounced without giving me a hearing.
2. Because no sentence is pronounced on Messrs. McMurrich and Shaw for charging me with dishonesty—although the Presbytery pronounced the charge unsupported by proof.
3. Because the Presbytery have given no directions to the session how to act in the premises, but have hung up a matter in which so many feelings are interested to an indefinite period.

For these and other reasons to be urged at the bar, I hereby protest and appeal to the Synod, to meet at London, in June 1856, and crave extracts.

(Signed) ROBERT BURNS.

THE SABBATH—MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED.

It has been officially announced, that Parliament will meet for the dispatch of business on the 15th of February. In view of this, it behoves the friends of the Sabbath to bestir themselves. The agitation, suspended for a time from unavoidable causes, must be resumed and prosecuted with redoubled energy. We trust the notice given in last No. as to simultaneous preaching, has been generally attended to, and

that it may give us a fresh stimulus and start.—The necessity is greater than ever. The evil is increasing every day. The rapid strides our rising country is making in the career of improvement, originate new forms of Sabbath desecration, while they widen the range and aggravate the dangers of the old. We invite special attention, at present, to those forms which have enjoyed Government countenance, and for whose abolition, Government interposuion has been sought. At the period of our last campaign, there were one thousand and twenty-six Post Offices regularly open on the Sabbath, requiring the services of at least two thousand five hundred individuals, not including the multitudes that have to do with the transmission and delivery of the Mails. The numbers now must be greatly increased. It matters not how short the time may be. The sanctity of the Sabbath, is as really invaded by the employment of one hour as of twelve. Besides, the time during which the offices are open, is no index of the amount of labour required. A vast amount removed beyond the public eye is expended in receiving and sending off Mails. This is enough to take away the taste, if not the time, for engaging in religious duty. Nor can the divine blessing be expected to accompany attendance on ordinances that forms a sequel to such a secular routine.—Thus are thousands of our fellow countrymen in this department alone, virtually deprived altogether of a privilege we claim for ourselves, and to which they are as legitimately entitled. They are so deprived by us; for, as members of the body politic we share the responsibility, unless we lift a protest against it, and do what in us lies to provide a remedy. Many upright and conscientious individuals too, are debarred from a service in which these qualities are particularly needed. They will not rob God, nor violate conscience. In such hands the interests of the public are most likely to be cared for. It is not fair, that because of their loyalty to their heavenly sovereign, they should suffer any loss, or be bereft of any advantage. The plea of necessity and mercy cannot be urged. Our fathers never dreamed of it with means of transit, so miserably inferior. They were contented to rest the Sabbath day according to the commandment, when as many days, as now there are hours, had to be spent in travelling. With them there might seem to be the shadow of an excuse. With us there is none. What excuse can there be for despatching a letter on Sabbath, when a Telegraphic communication on Saturday or Monday, can meet every emergency? It seems a poor return to render to that benevolent Being, who has given us such locomotive advantages, to convert these into vehicles for breaking his laws, and tarnishing an institution so highly revered.—In the Metropolis of the world, there has been no Postal delivery on the Sabbath for years; no inconvenience has been felt in consequence. An attempt made some time since by an infidel faction to bring about a change, was signally defeated. The great mass of the intelligent and influential citizens rose in their might, and immediately quashed it. Surely a plan which works so well in London, will work equally well in Canada, whose population and commerce are hardly so great, if it get from us but a fair trial.

The plan has been tried too in the sister province of Nova Scotia, and has wrought beautifully. The evidence gathered from all parts of our own province, and given in to our Parliamentary Committee of 1853, fully bears out, that no injury would be sustained by the social or commercial interests of our country, were the same plan adopted with us. But, even supposing that serious inconvenience and injury might ensue, we would still be bound to put an end to the present system. We must obey God irrespective altogether of the mercenary consideration of profit and loss. The Sabbath desecration on the Canals, must be nearly as great as in connexion with the Post Office. And there is reason to

fear, that on some of our Railways, Sabbath labour, either stated or occasional, is carried on to an alarming extent, and is daily increasing.—The most of the considerations which have been noticed with respect to the Post Office, apply with additional force to these. Let us endeavour by every competent means to arrest the progress of these great and growing evils.

1st. Let memorials to Government be immediately transmitted. In compliance with a recommendation of the Sabbath Committee, the Synod at its last meeting, "strictly urged on Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations, to repeat their memorials in cases where they have been already sent, and to adopt measures for immediately forwarding such memorials where the duty has as yet been entirely neglected." During our last effort nearly two hundred such petitions were sent, signed by more than twenty thousand.—Let there be no short-coming this time.

2nd. Meetings should be convened throughout every corner of the Province, that by direct oral appeals, the subject in its more public and practical bearing may be pressed on the notice of the community. At such meetings, petitions should be submitted and signed by Chairman and Secretary, in name of the meeting.

3rd. Tracts, pithy and pointed books like Edwards' Sabbath Manual, Waterbury, Dwight and Agnew on the Sabbath, and the Prize Essays of the Working Men should be widely circulated. This might be very easily and efficiently done through our Presbyterial Colporteurs.

4th. The Press should be largely taken advantage of by Ministers and others, to counteract the pernicious views that are all too general subject, and to disseminate views of a sound scriptural character. Many journals in the province have come out nobly, and rendered signal service. In addition to the excellent editorials they from time to time contain, it would be well if the columns of papers and periodicals throughout all parts of the province, received occasionally contributions in the form of short, popular articles on different departments of the subject.—Never were the enemies of the Sabbath more active in wielding this powerful weapon. The popular literature of this day is largely impregnated with an anti-Sabbath spirit. The Westminster Review, with the industry and ingenuity of a Penelope, weaves over and over again webs of sophistry which scores of times have been unravelled and torn into shreds. The "Times" with easy, elastic conscience, and Boanerges voice, gives vent to its stale and shallow bigotry and latitudinarianism. "Punch" cracks his merry jokes, deals out his flippant sneers. It is sad to find a genial soul like Dickens joining with the "faithless and scolding crew" who would set an extinguisher on this "Torch of Time," and wrest from us this "Pearl of Days." Most of the popular novel writers have thus prostituted their talents. In this particular form the enemy is coming in like a flood amongst us, and we should be no less zealous in lifting up a standard against him.

5th. Members of Parliament should be dealt with on this question by their constituents.—Every legitimate influence should be brought to bear upon them.

6th. Deputations might be appointed (if deemed prudent) to confer with Government, and with Railway Companies.

7. Sabbath Defence Associations should be formed all over the Province, and an effort made to secure the formation of a grand Provincial Alliance. The "League" of Sabbath desecrators recently organized in the parent country, should impel us to corresponding action. Will the children of this world remain always wiser in their generation than the children of light?

8th. Associations already in existence (such as the Toronto, Kingston, Montreal and Quebec,) will not, we trust, look on us as travelling beyond our province, or as being officious, when we would respectfully suggest to them the impor-