

upon them to provide for it on the Sabbath as on other days of the week. Then, furnishing the regular food supply for the great cities, as, for example, the supply of milk, creates a sort of *quasi* necessity for the means of transit at least in the early hours of the Lord's-day. Then the enormous extent of our modern cities—a matter which is only beginning to touch us in this country—raises the clamour for cheap and expeditious means of communication on all days of the week.

These are only a few of the perplexing elements which have been imported into this difficult question by the progress of events. They are mentioned here not for the purpose of entering upon their discussion, but simply to indicate the perplexity of the problem, and the intelligent discrimination required in its practical solution. At the same time, what has been said shows the many points at which encroachments may be, and are likely to be, made upon the sanctity of the Sabbath, and which must be carefully and sacredly guarded if this part of our glorious heritage is to be preserved in its integrity.

Of course, the State can do but little in respect to this matter without the Church. Besides, there is an aspect of the Sabbath with which the Government of the country has nothing to do. It is the duty of the State to guard the rights and privileges of all classes of the people, among the rest the right to rest on one day out of seven, and to spend it as their respective consciences may dictate, without suffering loss of employment or any other disability on account of their so doing. And the legislation which has taken place during the last few years in this Province, and the bill bearing upon this subject, introduced into the Dominion Parliament by Mr. Charlton, though its consideration was unfortunately postponed in consequence of the pressure of other matters, show that our public men are alive to this matter, and if they do not always act with the promptness and decision with which they ought to act, it is probably because there

is not, or they think there is not, the degree of intelligent conviction on the subject that there should be. Under a representative form of government, such as ours is, it is useless to expect the men in authority to go farther in these matters than the sentiment and feeling of the people will warrant them in going. And it is the function of the Church to form that state of public opinion which will furnish the right sort of legislation on this and all other matters in which morals are concerned.

Besides, the religious observance of the Sabbath is a matter which belongs exclusively to the Church. With it the State has no right to meddle. The more these two great forces are kept within their own respective spheres the better will it be for both the one and the other, and the more likely are the great interests committed to their charge respectively to be effectually promoted. We are pleased, therefore, to observe that the Ministerial Association of this city, instead of consenting to bring pressure upon the Government in order to have street parades, with brass bands and other noisy demonstrations on Sunday, prevented by law, resolved to bring the full power of the pulpit to bear upon the subject, taking it for granted that if the Government did not go as far as it ought in this matter, the cause was not in any disinclination on the part of the men entrusted with the management of our public affairs, but in the apathy of the people. It was a happy thought with the Association to set apart a day for the special discussion of this important subject, and we venture to believe that, in this, it has set an example worthy of being followed in other localities. The simultaneous presentation of the sanctity of the Sabbath, and its proper observance, to the Christian congregations of the entire community, if it is done with intelligence and earnestness, can scarcely fail to produce a profound impression. But whether it is done simultaneously or not, the pulpits of the land must give no uncertain sound upon this subject, and it must be set prominently before the people