

In connexion with this report, there was read an extract minute from the records of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, commencing the Rev. Dr. Willis, Professor of Theology in Knox's College, Toronto, as a deputation to this Assembly, to communicate information respecting the religious state of Canada, and the want of ministerial labourers in that colony.

The Rev. Dr. Willis being present, was introduced, and addressed the Assembly.

It was then moved, and unanimously agreed to, that this Assembly be rejoiced to receive Dr. Willis as the first Deputy from the Free Church of Canada, and to hear from him such cheering accounts of the advancement of religion, and the progress of the Church there; and that the Moderator convey to him the best thanks of this Assembly for his visit, and our ardent wishes for the prosperity of the Church with which he is connected, and our continued desire to promote the spiritual welfare of our fellow-subjects in the colonies of British North America.

The Moderator addressed Dr. Willis in suitable terms.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, by
ROBERT PARR, A. M.,
Sr. Clerk of Assembly.

PRESENT STATE OF IRELAND.

The effect of the elections, in so far as Ireland is concerned, has not yet passed away. In many places, those who dared to be independent of the priests, and to vote in opposition to the priests' candidates, are not only ill-treated by their Popish neighbours, but are even excluded from the Popish chapels, and deprived of the ordinary rites of their religion, which is still the persecuting character of the Romish priesthood. Blind, unconditional submission, and nothing less will content them. They have succeeded in getting sixty members returned, bound neck and heel, to support Popery; but they are bitterly disappointed that they have not sent more. The state of Ireland is awakening great interest in many patriotic minds on this side of the channel, and measures have been taken to procure funds for the purpose of sending a copy of Dr. Dill's recent admirable work on the "Miseries of Ireland" to every member of the new Parliament. Lord Eglinton, present Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, when addressing a meeting at Galway, a few days ago, traced all the evils of that unhappy country to the divided state of the people; but if his Lordship had condescended to read Dr. Dill's work, he would have seen that the source of Ireland's miseries lies in the blighting influence of Popery and its avacious, immoral, priesthood. This is the only true view of the matter, and the view which, we have no doubt, will be taken by the Evangelical Alliance, which is holding its Sixth Annual Conference at Dublin, this week. The present religious aspect of Ireland is to occupy a conspicuous place in its deliberations, and we have no doubt that much light will be thrown upon the subject. The conversions that are rapidly taking place from Popery to Protestantism are threatening to change the whole appearance of things. The priests are quite enraged, and attribute the frequent secessions of their people to the influence of bribery. The converts are not counted by tens or by hundreds, but by thousands. Let the process go on, as it has been doing for the last two years, and, ere long, Ireland will have undergone a total change; and instead of the thorn will come up the fir-tree, and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle-tree, and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. May the Lord hasten it in his own time.—*Cor. Presbyterian.*

MADRAS.

LETTER FROM REV. JOHN ANDERSON.

We cannot forbear entreating of all our readers the perusal of the following letter from Mr. An-

derson to the Convener. Any comment or remark would only weaken the impression which its own solemn statements and important facts must make:—

Madras 10th June.—Your great Assembly is now over; and from the midst of our own great and growing work, we have raised the prayer that the shout of a king might be in the midst of you.

I write in the very hottest of the hot winds. Though losing strength, the Lord helps me through day by day. I have been called to endure a great fight of affliction—have been in depths, and have been subjected to strange fiery trials for some time back. Though my outward man is perishing, my inward man is renewed day by day, and I get glimpses of that eternal weight of glory which these light afflictions are working out for me, and which leave me calm and satisfied. These trials of our faith will end in glorious issues some day, when we appear in presence of our Lord, whom having not seen, we love.

We are prospering much, outwardly, as a mission, and in our mission work. Our faithful native missionaries, Rajah, Venka, and Ettiraje, get noble opportunities of preaching Christ and Him crucified, at all our stations,—at Madras and Triplicane, where they had audiences of between eight and nine hundred lately on the Sabbath, and at Conjeveram and Chingleput, when on a tour in the end of May; and at Nellore, whither Ettirajooloo has gone with his family to superintend our school there, and to preach in Telugu as God opens the door. He has sometimes an audience of nearly three hundred of his scholars, male and female, there, on Sabbaths—and these, at least the greater portion of them, from the highest castes and best families in the place. They are prophesying to the dry bones, and we are waiting for the Spirit, for the "reath of the Lord, to breathe on them." There are symptoms of spiritual life, and we have several candidates for baptism; but we have learnt not to make haste. Some of these were pierced in their hearts by words spoken by us fourteen years ago,—others of them eleven years ago, and others of them lately. "It is the same Word of God, quick and powerful, when wielded by the Spirit's hand, that kills sinners to their salvation, whether they are Hindus or our own countrymen. One young man from Chingleput, convicted by Rajah's preaching, has written from Chingleput to say he wishes to come to Madras for baptism.

Our *Heralds* give you all the outward details of our work; but the inner history is known only to the Lord, and to us. And what is the inner history, as regards our converts, male and female, and ourselves too, but the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh—Christ and Satan in the soul struggling for the mastery—grace and sin by turns prevailing? But we know who will get the victory for us at last—King Jesus.

Our sons, Rajah, Venka, and Ettiraje are still our joy and crown, and, in the midst of the special afflictions and temptations of the work, are approving themselves as avangelists. All our other converts, male and female, are holding on in the way according to the grace given—some strong, some weak, and some ready to halt and to turn aside or go back, and are sources of sorrow or joy to us, just as children are to their father.

I feel assured that, in spite of all our pains and anxieties and fears about souls just now, we will see a goodly number in the day of our Lord Jesus, clean every whit, because washed in His own blood. Let us comfort one another with this hope. Our happiest days are all before us, when we shall be for ever with our Lord, amid the holy joys and exercises of heaven, and the sunshine of heaven's communion.

As to the affairs of this world of change and death, and the machinations of Antichrist, I am glad that the Lord reigneth, and that, whether things are dark or bright in His Church or in the world, and whether judgments are impending over an unbelieving and guilty world or not, the

government is on the shoulder of King Jesus; His will shall carry the day; the sceptre of His kingdom is a right sceptre, and His throne for ever and ever. Let us look through the mists of sense to the grand catastrophe, when the Great King sits on His judgment-throne, and the kings and mighty ones of the earth become little men in His presence, and mourn and wail before Him whom they have pierced! May we be found faithful in that day, brother, our loins girded, and our lamps burning!

ADDRESS BY THE COMMITTEE OF SYNOD ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE AND THE POST OFFICE.

The Synod's Committee on the Sabbath would beg leave once more to direct the special attention of every genuine patriot and Christian, to the important subject of the Post Office. Since the issuing of last notice, progress has been made, fitted to excite gratitude, and prompt to more energetic action. Our cause has again secured for itself a hearing in the Legislative Assembly, and by an interesting discussion of some hours' duration, has had peculiar prominence given to it. A parliamentary committee has been appointed, and a member has signified his intention of introducing a Bill. Now that something tangible and definite is being presented or is in prospect, it becomes more than ever the duty of all who reverence the character of God, respect the claims of His law, and have the welfare of the country sincerely at heart, immediately to bestir themselves. In order to the labors of the Parliamentary Committee being made of permanent practical utility, and the way being smoothed for the passing of any Legislative enactment, it is plain that the surface of society must be agitated, and an expression of public opinion elicited to a much larger extent than hitherto. The petitions as yet sent in, have been comparatively few—only 50, when intelligence last reached us. Last year there were 60. We are loath to believe that the falling off is to be attributed to a diminution of interest, at the very time the grounds for anticipating a favourable issue are being increased. Surely there are many throughout the province to whom the Sabbath is dear, still standing aloof, who require merely to be stirred up by way of remembrance, in order at once to realize the danger of letting the present opportunity slip, and the duty of making *not a moment's delay*. We are aware that there are some who are jealous of the Legislature interfering at all in a matter of this kind. They consider that it is intruding within the sacred domain of religion, and attempting to coerce conscience. Let it be borne in mind, however, what is the precise object of the memorials—a large increase of which we earnestly solicit. We by no means wish the public authorities to legislate in behalf of sectarianism, or to give effect to any particular class of religious opinions. We only ask them to protect, by authority, the day of rest. We ask them not to permit any man in this free country to suffer harm or loss for the views he conscientiously holds—not to take the people's money to carry out an extensive system of legalized Sabbath desecration, opposed to the sentiments and sympathies of a large section of the community, and calculated to expose our rapidly advancing province to the withering curse of heaven. It is the *present system* for whose abolition we contend, as being at variance with the grand principles of religious liberty, compelling, as it does, those who are our own *hired servants*, (and for whose conduct we are responsible,) either to cast their conscientious scruples to the winds, or to forfeit important temporal advantages. We hold it to be the imperative duty of every good government, not to "impose, directly or indirectly, any penalty, loss, or disability, upon any man, by reason of his religious belief."

The impolicy of public Sabbath abuses is unquestionable. And it is an astounding fact,