

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Observance beg leave to report as follows:—

That the Sabbath is a Divine institution. This no person professing to believe the doctrines and ordinances of the Bible will attempt to deny. "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," &c., is a plain and positive command of Jehovah, which cannot be violated with impunity; and that we may not err as touching the manner of its observance, His prophetic servant, Isaiah, (lviii. 13-14) thus speaks: "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath from doing thy pleasure on my Holy Day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable, and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words—then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob, thy father, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." No secular business is here allowed, nor worldly conversation permitted, nor toleration given to the indulgence of an earthly thought; no talking about crops, or the seasons, or worldly business; no drives or visits for mere amusement, nor for other than religious or charitable objects; no planning or devising of worldly schemes, nor the indulgence of thoughts earthly, sensual, or devilish on that hallowed day. Such seems to be the design of the prohibitory part of the Divine message; while, as active beings who must have some employment, there is a course clearly marked out: Hallow, that is, devote to sacred purposes that sacred day; and do it heartily. "Delight thyself in the Lord;" take pleasure in religious employment on that day; in the private, social and public ordinances of grace—the Sabbath School, the distribution of tracts, visiting the sick, the aged and the indigent, who may not be able to attend the House of God; these, with the reading of the Scriptures, meditation and prayer, will give ample employment to all who seek to spend aright the day Jehovah calls his own.

It is with heartfelt sorrow your Committee report that, notwithstanding the plainness of the Divine command respecting the observance of the Sabbath, the fearful consequences of its violation, and the blessed results of its right observance, there are still so many living in the habitual neglect of the discharge of their proper duties to the Sabbath; nay, worse, they live in open violation of its most sacred and binding obligation. The Sabbath is profaned; man meets his fellow on that solemn day to talk over their worldly affairs, their labors, hopes, fears, success or failure, and not a word—yea, probably not a thought of the God of the Sabbath; while with energy and skill they labor and toil through the six days of the week appointed for such labor, they spend the Sabbath in indolence and sloth, or in works detrimental to the interests of their undying