

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
THE DUE OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S-DAY.

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EXTRACTS

FROM

LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENTS, POST-MASTERS,
CLERKS, LETTER CARRIERS, ETC.

WITH RETURNS OF SUNDAY LABOUR IN CERTAIN
POST OFFICES.

LONDON :

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EXTRACTS, &c.

At the present moment, when all parties are anxious to know the facts relating to labor on the Lord's Day in the Post Office Department, the following extracts from the letters addressed to, and in the possession of, the Lord's Day Society, will convince even the most sceptical as to the hardships endured by a large number of Public Servants, and their feelings as to the injurious effects of the habitual desecration of the Lord's Day. Many of these letters are of the most touching character, and shew the strong desire of all connected with the Post Office Service, to be relieved from labour on the Lord's Day.

“REV. SIR,—Agreeable to promise, I will now endeavour to give you some information relative to Country Post Offices, as bearing upon the desecration of the Lord's Day by those employed, and trust it may be useful in forwarding the ‘good’ you have in view: premising that for 20 years I was myself the Comptroller or Assistant Postmaster in the Manchester Post Office—but resigned my situation some 10 years since, chiefly on account of health.

“It was always a point with me, especially towards the latter part of my time in the Post Office, to procure as much relaxation as possible of the Sunday duty for the benefit of the Clerks. And in this course I had the sanction of the then Postmaster of Manchester—and of the Surveyor of his district, who is a superior officer to the Postmaster, and under whose more immediate superintendence the Country Post Offices are placed. By their assistance, and not meeting any opposition from the public, as many Clerks as possible were excused attendance, so that all might have alternate Sundays to themselves. The Letter Carriers were obliged to attend on Sundays; but I never remember more than one delivery on the Sabbath by Letter Carriers;—which was the early morning delivery about 8 o'clock, keeping them formerly until 12 or 1 o'clock in the day—at present till about 11. But in this town, when the London mail arrived in the forenoon, say 11 o'clock, the London letters were not delivered by Letter Carriers, and could only be obtained by application at the Post Office, and by those who had private boxes at the Post Office. Comparatively few availed themselves of the opportunity: to the credit of the inhabitants, merchants, &c.,

be it said, they were principally the *foreigners* who applied, of whom there are considerable numbers resident in Manchester.

“As regards this town, therefore, the late alteration made by the Postmaster General does not grant any relief; not one Clerk less is employed than formerly—it requires a number as great as any other day, from 6 o'clock on the Sunday morning until 10 A.M.; then, several may leave, and at 11 A.M. the Office is closed for delivery of letters until 5 P.M. But one or two are on duty previous to five, in order to dispatch a few bags to towns in the vicinity, which might be well dispensed with. The friends of Mr. Rowland Hill have stated, in justification of the recent Order, that the lesser evil was better than the greater—the employment of 25 additional men in London, if relief could be granted to 2,000 in the Country! This sophistical, and I fear fallacious, argument or assertion, must be thoroughly exposed and refuted by your Society—and the real fact proved. Notwithstanding the paragraph in one of the London journals, that the new plan of Rowland Hill would be withdrawn, I fear such will not be the case. And if it goes on, it will hereafter increase; the Sunday will become, in the General Post Office, almost similar to a week day, because the mercantile world have not obtained as yet what they wished, viz., their foreign letters; and when they obtain this desideratum, the foreign houses in London will insist on having their letters delivered on the Sabbath, or they will be behind the country in information.

“It will require all your exertions to prevent this further desecration of the Lord's Day, and by the 'blessing of God let us hope you will, with the assistance of the moral and religious portion of the community, ultimately succeed in entirely closing all the Post Offices during the Sabbath. It has been my painful task to hear confessions of delinquencies, and these I attribute mainly to Sunday duty; of which fact I am a competent judge, it having been my province to keep the Cash Account. In one instance a young Clerk, whom I suspected, admitted to the Postmaster and myself, that he had pilfered from the 'money till;' or rather he said he found a sovereign on the floor. Can we wonder at this?

“In the desecration of the Sabbath there are evils within evils. The authorities permit as few as possible to be employed on the Sunday; the consequence is, it often happens at Country Offices that only one Clerk is on duty perhaps for two or three hours by himself, and that in towns where much money is received. There is not the usual business going on as on week days in the Post Office; there are only a few persons making application at the window—only a few bags of Letters to receive and dispatch. The Clerk in attendance has much time on hand: how does he employ himself? Not, I fear, in reading his Bible or religious books; perhaps in reading newspapers, or thinking of the past week's follies, or the coming week's amusements. He may have expended more than he could well spare in the indulgence of some besetting sin—he may require more than he has, to gratify some expensive immorality—he may have applied to his friends for money and been refused—he dwells on these things—he has time sufficient to do it:—his principle may withstand temptation, or his propensity to evil may get the mastery;—he sees the money, means of gratification

about him, no eye upon him but that ever-watchful Eye that is ever over him, but of which he does not now think ;—he may reflect, and something whisper ' A little will not be missed ; you can replace it when you receive your salary, and thus satisfy your conscience. Is not this a scene in which the tempter but too often triumphs ? In the course of my experience I know these things have occurred, and the unfortunate Clerk has ultimately become a vagabond or criminal. Ought not every one of us to be anxious not only to remove temptation from the mind of youth, but to fortify their principles, in order to meet it when presented to them ?

" Now that this question is fairly mooted and before the public, I hope it may issue in the closing of all Post Offices on the Lord's-day, and many other evils would in consequence be much mitigated, if not removed.

" If you think this in any way useful to your cause, I give you full liberty to publish it. •

" H. ANDREWS."

From the Postmaster of ———. — " My belief is that very few (if any) of us countrymen get any relief whatever from the employment of the London officers. In my own case there is none ; and I have tried —honestly tried—to think of a case in which it is possible that the Country Postmaster *could* be relieved by these means ; indeed the very reverse I believe is the effect."

From the Postmaster of ———. — " I received an official Circular this morning, a copy of which I enclose, with the answers I returned. This will be made to appear to the public as if we were closed altogether during the hours specified. Notwithstanding, our whole force in this Office, viz., three clerks, three letter-carriers, five country messengers, and others, in all amounting to upwards of thirty, are fully employed in consequence of the arrivals and despatches of mails at the times the Office is specified to be closed. There is about seventeen hours' labour every day in this Office, and you will perceive, by the foregoing statements, the labour on the Sabbath day is the same with us as on all other days.

" The proposed plan to close the Provincial Offices from ten till five is a mere pretence to give relief. There is not one Office in fifty that will benefit half an hour by the arrangement.

" The apparent determination of the authorities to enforce their demoralizing mandate shows more and more the tyranny which we have been and are subject to."

From the Postmaster of ———. — " I am rejoiced to find there are yet left such men as Lord Ashley to advocate this great cause of God, and of us poor Post Office servants.

" One of my clerks, who has been about ——— years in the service, was detected (by a trap laid for him) in stealing letters containing money ; he, poor creature, was of course committed to stand his trial. What will be his earthly doom we may have some idea of. Can we judge what it will be hereafter ? He was one of the ' poor slaves' who may now say, Will you pay for my lost character, as I have never had the opportunity of keeping it good ?—saying nothing

of his soul. Could I command my own time, I might be able to send you such heart-rending accounts as might thrill through the hearts of even many who appear now callous to the cries of their suffering brethren."

From the Postmaster of ———.—“ I sincerely thank you for the interest you have taken in contending for the cessation of all Post Office business on the Lord's Day. Should this object be realized, I shall greatly estimate the privileges it would secure to me.”

From the Postmaster of ———.—“ Moreover, in your own words in your Tract, ‘ The secret persuasion that I am doing wrong constantly haunts me.’ Indeed, I fear I should be sinning against God in remaining in the situation, after the clear conviction that I have of the evil of the Sabbath Post Office. Here is my son, a youth not quite seventeen: every time I send him into the Post Office on the Lord's-day, I consider I am imperilling his morality; and if he should ever fall, what could I say for myself?”

From the Post-Master of ———.—“ It has long been my earnest, though I lament most unworthy prayer, that this day of sacred rest might be properly enjoyed by all; and I humbly hope that the very best blessing of the God of Heaven may attend your efforts.”

From the Post-Master of ———.—“ I find that the office engagements on the Sabbath have a great tendency to wean the affections from God, and from paying that deference to his holy day which it is my duty to do. I have often thought of resigning the office in consequence of the baneful effects it has on the soul, but have been led to defer it in hope that the time was not far distant when this national evil would be removed, and that all parties employed in the Post Office would be enabled to serve their Creator, instead of man, on his holy day.”

From the Postmaster of ———.—“ The Post Office is open here during the whole Sabbath the same as any other day; the Office is nominally closed during the hour of Divine Service—this is all; and, as Mails both arrive and depart here during those hours, the poor Postmaster and his assistants never get to church; they must be at their post from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.”

From a Clerk in ——— *Post Office.*—“ SIR, Having heard of your kind exertions in the cause of Sabbath Observance, I have taken the liberty of writing to you, and also to Mr. Pears, whose able efforts in behalf of those employed in the Post Office we are grateful for, and whose letters we took the liberty of getting published for circulation through all the Offices we correspond with. I am a Clerk in the ——— Post Office, and allude to the two first letters by Mr. Pears in the Bath newspaper some time since. It is a fact, in reference to our own merchants here, that those who do not take their letters on a Sunday, under any circumstances, are those who have by far the greatest number of letters, and allowed to be of the same importance as those of others; and also, that

though it was entirely a voluntary act on their part, and acted upon by some of them for years past, yet not one of these few has ever complained of injury or inconvenience. We cannot hear that they have ever *suffered for conscience*' sake. To one of these parties, a few weeks back, was given on the Monday morning an accumulation of 171 letters. Several of our number are young men from a great distance, never away from the influence of home and friends before; the night-work is vitiating to the constitution of many; the few occasions when we have the bare hour of Divine Service free from labour, some are fatigued and hungry—some are anything but clean and fit to appear as others—many positively never have an opportunity from one year's end to another. If, as the Judges of this land often labour to prove, Sabbath-breaking, or rather neglect of Sabbath privileges, and lack of spiritual instruction, is the most fruitful source of crime and dishonesty, is it to be wondered at that so many have 'fallen' in the Post Office? In many cases, the first spiritual care they have received for years is given them on their first Sabbath's rest in the felon's cell. In the Customs' Service, where the nature of the duties does not call for it as necessary, they have their Sundays, and a month's leave of absence every year. The servants of *everybody*, we do not expect them to care for our bodies, but (excepting a few friends) we can truly say, No man hath cared for our souls."

From a Clerk in ——— Post Office.—"Many of the Clerks in the Office to which I refer never attended church at all, and several were guilty of gross immoralities; there were, however, I am happy to say, some honourable exceptions. This remark applies also to the inferior officers—namely, the Bagmen and Letter-carriers; the Stampers were a well-conducted body of men, which was rather remarkable, considering the bad examples set before them. Were I not unwilling to give offence by exposing private character, I could unfold tales which would arouse the indignation even of the sensualist; but such is not surprising, when we remember that these men were denied the privilege of holy communion on the Sabbath—had no intermission worth mentioning from the miserable monotony of letter-sorting, but lived in one unvarying round of mechanical worldliness. Never would I recommend a friend of mine to enter an Inland Office, at all events until its present wretched system is changed, as he would there be exposed to countless temptations; and it is much easier to follow the vices of the many than to practise the virtues of the few."

From a Letter Carrier.—"I do know that I am breaking God's law, and it is always on my mind night and day; when I lie down and when I rise up it is continually haunting me; and, to speak the truth, I am afraid, if I do continue it, that I shall go to hell; and, if I give it up, I do not know what I shall do—I may not get another situation. Dear Sir, I do feel truly thankful, I trust, for your kindness, and I hope the Lord will bless you and the Society tenfold in this world, and a hundred in the world to come."

From a Letter Carrier.—"I would just observe, that to be released from my Sunday labours would be hailed by me as the greatest boon that could be conferred on me; for I can truly say I have had sixteen years of complete slavery."

From a Parent to her Son in the London Post Office.—"Our surprise has been much excited of late to hear of the ungodly doings at the General Post Office, and your silence has made us anxious, knowing that you are exposed to temptation—and money is to youth at all times a dangerous temptation; but we pray God that we may hear better things of you, as also of your brother clerks from the North. Many parents about us are made anxious—I may say, sorrowful by this ungodly scheme; for, whatever the Southern may think, we homely folks amongst the mountains, have been taught from our youth to revere the Sabbath-day as one of God's choicest blessings to our fallen nature, and would wish our children to continue steadfast in the example they have ever had set before them, feeling, as we do, the truth of the Lord's saying, 'Whosoever honoureth me, I will honour.' Depend upon it, my dear child, this unrighteous proceeding will not be allowed to continue for any lengthened period. In the mean time, *stand fast*; for, sooner than you should labour on the Sabbath-day, we had much rather receive you again to our peaceful home. As soon as I receive your answer to this, I will write to you."

Observations of a Dying Letter Carrier, communicated by the Clergyman who attended him.—"He replied to this effect: 'Do you mean to say that I cannot read my Bible, and learn these things now as well as any one else? Why, you kept me at work night and day, Sunday and all—for you are one of the public: I had no time to go to church or chapel: and who is to pay me for my soul?' I won't say anything of the temper or ignorance in which he asked the question; and I hope that others will not hastily turn away from their own share in the matter, to consider in what *spirit* he made the remark. I wish those who have employed him and others would answer it. For my own part, I could not. It may be well for many of us seriously to think how many persons may have a right to cry out, in our presence, in the day of account, 'WHO IS TO PAY ME FOR MY SOUL?' A defence which will not serve them, may yet be a ruinous testimony against us. Soon after, the person here spoken of was somewhat suddenly removed by death—he is gone into the presence of God with his plea, 'Who is to pay me for my soul?' It will be well for those who employ the Office on the Lord's Day, to be prepared with their answer. The crowd comes to the Office in the same selfish hurry;—no one thinks of those who are gone to enter upon an eternity—and of what? How infinitely worthless are all the letters that were ever put into an Office, in comparison with one immortal soul?"

From a Correspondent.—"I have this morning received your circular address, and lose no time in earnestly promising, under God's will, my humble co-operation in its object. Not long ago, in conjunction with neighbours similarly disposed, I took part in a Petition to the

Post Office authorities, that the Letter Carrier, who daily delivers letters in this village, in his way from Huntingdon to Alconbury, might be released from Sunday labour. This petition was granted, and the man soon afterwards gratefully expressed to me the comfort restored to him in being enabled again to join in public worship at his parish church—a Christian claim of right from which he had long been debarred. Within the last month, however, *one single* person, and he, too, *one* whose correspondence cannot be supposed large or important, has stated to the London Post Office that he is dissatisfied with the Sabbath cessation, and the letter carrier has, consequently, been ordered to resume his occupation for the day on which worldly work should stop, and to deliver, as heretofore, the letters of any person that may require it."

Subsequently communicated by the same Correspondent.—"You will further oblige me by one or more additional sets of the papers you have already circulated, as those with which you have favoured me are in the hands of friends in Huntingdon, and I want another set for reference. The Post Office authorities have so far noticed the second petition of the Alconbury postman, who was put on Sunday work again about a month ago at the instigation of one person, that they have inquired what he has since had to deliver to that person on Sundays; and this appears to have been *one newspaper*, as the day came round, without any letter."

From a Correspondent.—"You must not, however, suppose that any cause but inability deprives you of co-operation from Guernsey. I believe that many of God's people are abounding in prayer on your behalf at this crisis. The sanctification of the Lord's Day is very dear to us in this little island. This I will prove to you by two simple facts, which have both come under my cognizance. When I came here, almost three years since, two mail steamers arrived here every Lord's Day; now, by the great blessing of God on the exertions of some of His praying people, *not one* arrives—the Postmaster General has been induced to alter the days—and upwards of 500 people have been emancipated from Sunday labour. I shall never forget the look of the Letter-carrier, as he said to me, 'God bless the gentlemen who have done so much for us;—I have not spent such a Sabbath as the last for 25 years!' About this time twelvemonth, encouraged by the former triumph, the same parties undertook a bolder measure. An application was made to our local Legislature for an ordinance to close the public houses *during the entire of Sunday*. It was carried, *for three months*, by a very narrow majority—7 to 5. At the end of the three months it was tried again, and carried for nine months, by an increased majority of 8 to 4. In about six weeks the trial will yet again be made, and we trust that the ordinance will be made permanent, or at least be enacted for a year, and by a larger majority than any that we have had as yet. Surely such facts as these may greatly encourage you; and, at the same time, shew that though we cannot, from our political constitution, co-operate with you in your application to Parliament, there are many here who co-operate with you in a way more effective still. Be of good cheer; the work is of and

for the Lord ; and He has said, ' I, the Lord, will prosper it in his time.' "

From a Postmaster (communicated by a Friend).—" I would willingly resign my office for any other situation where my labour would be required for the six days *only*, even if it were with less salary ; for I now consider that Sunday is the hardest day's work in the week. I have to be up by three o'clock in the morning, and cannot leave my office till ten ; after which I don't feel very much inclined for church ; for when I do go to church I have the greatest difficulty in keeping myself awake during the service, which is anything but pleasant. You, having been an officer in the Post Office, are aware that Sunday mornings' labours are much more than any other morning, in consequence of the extra newspapers we have to sort and deliver ; and we have decidedly more letters go through our Office on the Sunday evening than any other evening. I can only tell you that I am more fatigued and tired on the Sunday night than any other night ; and all I can do is, to pray to God to direct Her Majesty's Ministers to cause all labour to cease on the Sabbath day, as set forth in God's commandments, which would be the greatest blessing that could be bestowed on the poor hard-working servants in the Post Office. I do think Her Majesty's Ministers don't know half the labour there is performed on the Sabbath in country Post Offices ; but I am delighted to hear you say there is reason to hope for a change when Parliament meets."

From a Postmaster.—" I received your kindness yesterday, containing the Report of the Society for the better Observance of the Sabbath, and was much delighted to find that there are not a few who are feeling deeply on the subject in connexion with the Post Office in the country ; and I unite most fervently with yourselves and them, that this great national evil of working this ponderous machinery on the Sabbath-day may be soon removed. How plain and easy a plan might be effected for working the Post Office without infringing on the Sabbath, and yet without loss of more than the twenty-four hours to any part of the kingdom. Yours is, indeed, an honourable work ; and honour, present and eternal, shall be yours, in thus seeking to awaken our country to a sense of its first duty, to honour God in the observance of his commands, ' They that honour me I will honour.' I have a large family dependent on me, and know not in which way to provide, or I would resign my office. My faith is weak, but my daily prayer is, that a way may be opened up for me, or that the evil of Sabbath work may be removed. Our worthy Rector has been active in getting up a petition from this town, which has been forwarded."

From a Postmaster.—" You will be glad to learn that in this town and neighbourhood there is an extensive feeling in favour of the suspension of all Post Office business on the Lord's Day ; and no difficulty appears in the way of having another petition got up in time for the meeting of Parliament, to be signed by great numbers.

I am happy to observe that the Incumbents here have generally received the circular you mentioned. Such means, I trust, will have the Almighty's blessing, and in the end produce effects which the whole kingdom will rejoice to see. Allowing every Postmaster, Messenger, and Letter-Carrier in the nation could have received a similar circular, inviting them all to aid the glorious work, it would, in my opinion, produce beyond all doubt the very best results; seeing that a slavery of the most galling description is the atmosphere we all breathe; and thousands among us ardently yearn for a rest on that day which God, in infinite wisdom, most plainly intended for all. One of the Surveyors of the General Post Office, who has under his care, perhaps, I may say, several hundred Offices, told me a few days since, that the public is positively right in urging the suspension of all Post Office business on the Sabbath, and that no expediency whatever can, in the least, justify a Government in resisting the petitions in favour of it. He added that there was no connection between the late Sunday work introduced into the General Post Office, and the *pretended* relief to the Country Offices; and that throughout the whole length and breadth of his district, very few towns were relieved by it. Certainly, every Office might have had this mock closing, from 10 till 5, without those poor additional slaves being compelled to perform this sad drudgery in the great Metropolis."

From a Postmaster.—"I have just received a circular, a copy of which I enclose. This will be a skilful move at this present crisis of our warfare; nevertheless, we must all join heart and hand to stand the ground we have gained, and never allow them to make the least encroachment. We must now have the full surrender of that hallowed day. I still cherish the hope that the time is not far distant, 'for us all,' connected with the Post Office desecration, to be able to utter our heartfelt thanks to the Society, for the victory.

"P.S. It is pleasing to hear from poor men, such sentiments as those under:—One of my foot-messengers, who travels upwards of 18 miles every day, says, could he only have the Sabbath rest for his body, and to serve his God, although he only receives 14s. per week, he would gladly give up 4s. of them."

Extract from a Paper, entitled "The Sabbath in the Post Office."—"What is the amount of Sabbath Labour?—In 1848, the number of officials who held their situations *directly* from the Postmaster-General was 11,510, of whom about 8000 were obliged to work on Sabbath; but the number actually employed is very much larger, and is now believed to exceed 15,000. In Scotland, there are 500 letter-carriers who deliver letters from house to house, even in rural districts, and 500 riders and runners, who carry mail-bags from office to office and from town to town, all of whom are deprived of Sabbath rest. Some idea may be formed of the work to be done, by what takes place *every Sabbath* in the Edinburgh Post Office:—340 bags are received, and as many dispatched; ten mails are sent by railway, and as many received; six gigs and four runners dispatched and received. The attendance is from 4 to 7.45 A.M., 9.45

to 12 noon, 12.45 to 6 P.M., 7.45 to 9 P.M. It will be seen at a glance, how this arrangement interferes with public worship. The following is a return of the parties employed on Sabbath the 28th October last:—Presidents, 2; inland clerks, 30; paid letter do., 2; stampers, 12; carriers, 27; superintendents, 2; charge-taker, 1; supernumeraries, 7; bagman, 1; lobby-porters and attendant, 3; besides about 20 guards, runners, riders, &c. ! In many places, this Sabbath work extends over 16 or even 18 hours, and frequently it is impossible for those engaged in it ever to attend the public worship of God. *It is slavery of the soul as well as the body.*

*“Is Work in the Post Office on the Lord’s Day necessary?—*The people deny that there is any necessity in the case, *and they can prove it.* It is in truth astonishing how the system should have been tolerated so long, when evidence of its rottenness was at our own doors in the fact, that there has never been a letter-delivery of any kind in London on the Sabbath. The London Office is *shut* against a letter-delivery, and against a dispatch of London letters, to this day. This fact is an argument in itself, and demonstrably proves that no Country Office need be open. The public conscience is being oppressed by the *immorality* and the *injustice* of this system, and will submit to it no longer.

*“American Experience.—*More than eighty thousand miles of mails, which a few years ago ran on the Sabbath, have been stopped; and the Postmaster-General, in a written communication made the last year, has said, “I should be gratified to see the transmission of the mails, as well as every other species of labour, suspended on the Sabbath.”—(Sixth Report (1849) of the American and Foreign Sabbath Union). The Report for 1848 of the same Society says: ‘A late Postmaster-General acknowledged that the running of the Mails in the United States on the Sabbath is wholly unnecessary.’ Here is another fact! Strange, that a practice which is being abolished in America should be continued in Great Britain, and that Sabbath mails from London should have been, within these few weeks, forced upon a protesting people!

*“Effect of Stopping the Mails.—*This may at first sight be still a startling thing to some people, but only at first sight. The experiment already made in America, on the principal lines of road, is surely *conclusive*; but a few words will suffice to show how slightly the existing state of things would be changed in this country, supposing the Offices to be every where closed on the Sabbath, as is now universally desired. If the Mail, then, were to rest during the Lord’s Day, letters dispatched from London at 9 P.M. Saturday, would be delivered in Liverpool and other principal towns in England on Monday morning; while the letters dispatched from these towns to London on Saturday evening, would be delivered, as at present, on Monday morning. Here, then, would be no change. In more distant towns, as Edinburgh and Glasgow, the delivery would not take place till the afternoon in place of the morning on Monday, and *vice versa*. There would be scarcely any alteration at all in the correspondence betwixt the large towns in England and Scotland. The Mails, for example, made up in Edinburgh and Glasgow on Saturday evening, would be delivered in Liverpool on Monday morning, and *vice versa*. In fine, *the Sabbath*

being the blank day, (and the only blank day), Monday would stand in the same position to Saturday as Tuesday does to Monday, and so on.

"*The Sum of the Matter.*—The Post Office system, as at present conducted on Sabbath, being unnecessary, is a national violation of the Divine commandment, 'Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.' It is demoralizing to the entire community by familiarizing it with the authoritative transaction of secular business. It is oppressive to those whom it robs of that day of rest, which is their inalienable birthright.

"Let the people then go to Parliament, and say to it plainly that the grievance must be removed forthwith, and the thing is done. But to be successful, they must ORGANIZE, AGITATE, AND PETITION. Above all, let every man who has a vote, tell his representatives, personally or by letter, that he is expected to support the people's prayer. The cause is a holy one. The time for immediate and united action is come.

"WE MUST HAVE ENTIRE SABBATH REST, OR WE SHALL SOON HAVE ENTIRE SABBATH DESECRATION."

Extract from "Bell's Weekly Messenger," showing the demoralizing effects of Sunday labor.

"In a brief notice which appeared in our paper last week, we stated that one of Mr. Rowland Hill's Sunday volunteers had been taken into custody on the charge of stealing moneys in the Post Office. The unhappy man was placed upon his trial at the Central Criminal Court on Thursday, pleaded guilty, and, owing partly to the character which he received from several officers in the Post Office, and partly to the fact, that the money was not abstracted from any letters, he was sentenced to only one year's imprisonment. We now request attention to the statement made by the prisoner's counsel. Mr. Payne said, 'that Clayton had confessed to him that his first departure from honesty commenced subsequently to his volunteering to perform Sunday duties, and that he had never appropriated a single penny of the official moneys until he had habitually broken the fourth commandment—since the middle of October last. He had been a regular attendant at a place of worship previously to that period, but subsequently had altogether neglected attendance on the means of grace. Clayton had been in the employ of the Post Office twelve years, and until the period referred to, he had never incurred a suspicion of dishonesty. The Superintending President, the Accountant General, one of the Presidents of the Inland-office, and the principal "Windowman," in whose office he was employed, were all present, to testify to his previous good character. He had been entrusted every quarter-day with several hundred pounds, the salaries of clerks who employed him to draw for them, and he had invariably rendered them a just account of their moneys.'

"What compensation can the authorities make to the unhappy man who was tempted by the offer of a large pecuniary bribe to do violence to his religious convictions, by trampling under foot a positive Divine command, and then, having overleaped the barrier, branded upon his own heart and conscience the name of thief?"

"Surely such a comment as is furnished by the history of Clayton,

on the moral effects of the new Sabbath-desecrating scheme, should induce every God-fearing man to use whatever influence he possesses, not only to defeat that scheme, but to put an end to the entire system of Sabbath labor, which has been suffered to spread itself over the whole country, and is exercising on thousands of minds an influence as demoralizing and injurious as that which has just been developed in the case of Clayton.

"In using this language, it may, perhaps, be thought by some of our readers, that we are allowing our feelings to put in abeyance the exercise of our judgment. We plead, not guilty. We 'speak the words of soberness and truth,' and call to witness that we do so, a gentleman, whose truthfulness will not be questioned for a moment. In his examination before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, Colonel Maberley, the Secretary to the Post Office, said, in reply to a question put by Mr. F. Baring, 'that the plunder has been very great, and that the department has become thoroughly demoralized;'—and adds, that 'the number of applications for missing letters containing property, made at the General Post Office from Jan. 5th, 1837, to Jan. 5th, 1842, was 32,369; in 29,368 of which, the property was not found. The amount of property contained in the letters not found, was 322,033/.'

"Now, when it is remembered that *nearly twenty thousand* of our countrymen are regularly and systematically engaged in violating the Sabbath, can we wonder at such results? Make the tree corrupt, and the fruit will be corrupt also."

RETURNS SHEWING THE PRESENT AMOUNT OF LABOUR ON
THE LORD'S DAY IN CERTAIN POST OFFICES.

Names of Towns.	Length of time employed on Sundays as under		How Postmasters are occupied at present on Sundays between the hours of 10 A.M. and 5 P.M., with Remarks.
	Old arrangement.	New arrangement.	
	hrs. min.	hrs. min.	
Abingdon	12 15	10 15	15 bags received, and 15 despatched. <i>Mem.:</i> The Postmen start at 6 in the morning, and have a round of 20 miles each to walk, and so the whole Sabbath is desecrated.
Ashbourne	10 0	8 0	The Office closed for 2 hours longer than before.
Barnstaple	11 30	10 35	20 bags received, and 20 bags despatched.
Basingstoke	11 50	11 50	3 bags received, and 3 bags despatched. The Messenger to the Railway is unable to attend church.
Bath	17 0	16 0	95 bags received, and 78 despatched!
Battle	10 0	9 0	The Office closed for 1 hour more than before. —This benefit is more than counterbalanced by the additional work imposed on all Postmasters on Saturday and Monday.
Beverley	11 30	8 0	4 bags received and despatched.
Bodmin	13 0	12 0	20 bags received and despatched.

Names of Towns.	Length of time employed on Sundays as under		How Postmasters are occupied at present on Sundays between the hours of 10 A.M. and 5 P.M., with Remarks.
	Old arrangement.	New arrangement.	
	hrs. min.	hrs. min.	
Bolton	7 0	6 30	The Office closed for 30 min. longer than before.
Boston	9 15	6 0	The Office closed for 3 hours and 15 minutes longer than before.
Brecon	8 30	8 30	7 bags received and despatched.
Bridport	13 30	9 30	4 bags despatched.
Bristol	17 0	17 0	1 Postmaster, 26 Clerks, 36 Letter Carriers and Assistants, 12 Foot Messengers, 8 Mail Guards, 10 Mail-cart Drivers, 80 Receiving-houses in Bristol and its village districts, employing about 120 persons;—total, 213. The Clerks are employed for about 10 hours each on the Lord's Day, and have but 1 Sunday in 10 for rest, &c.
Brooms Grove ..	19 30	17 0	The Office closed for 2 hours and 30 minutes longer than before.
Bury, Lancash.	10 0	7 0	The Office closed for 3 hours longer than before.
Bury St Edmunds	13 15	11 15	4 bags received and despatched.
Buckingham ..	8 0	8 0	2 bags received, and 2 despatched. The Office has been closed, excepting for the receipt and despatch of these bags, between the hours of 10 A.M. and 5 P.M. for more than two years.
Cardigan	9 0	9 0	1 bag despatched.
Carlisle	11 15	7 15	8 bags received and despatched.
Chelmsford	12 0	12 0	No change.
Cheltenham ..	12 0	12 0	17 bags received. The new arrangement will relieve 1 Clerk out of 6 for 4 hours only; and the second delivery being discontinued, the Letter Carriers will be so far relieved.
Chester	15 0	14 0	2 bags received, and 2 despatched. One Clerk only will be relieved for 1½ hours.
Chichester	16 0	12 0	The Office closed 4 hours longer than before.
Crediton	9 30	7 30	2 bags received and despatched.
Christchurch ..	13 0	12 0	11 bags received, and 11 bags despatched.
Coventry	15 30	15 30	11 bags received, and 9 bags despatched.
Congleton	11 0	10 0	Office closed 1 hour longer than before.
Deal	14 0	11 0	Office closed 3 hours longer than before.
Derby	24 0	21 0	12 bags received, and 20 despatched. 8 Clerks employed at different hours, the Office business being continuous throughout the day.
Dewsbury	10 0	7 0	18 bags received and despatched.
Doncaster	11 0	8 0	Office closed 3 hours longer than before.
Dover	20 0	20 0	Persons in attendance to receive Foreign Mails.
Durham	12 0	8 0	3 bags received, 3 bags despatched.
Ely	14 0	11 0	Office closed 3 hours longer than before.
Exmouth	9 30	7 30	8 bags received, 8 bags despatched.
Fakenham	12 0	9 0	Office closed 3 hours longer than before.
Folkestone	8 0	8 0	No change.
Gateshead ...	12 30	10 30	41 bags received and despatched.
Hatfield	10 0	10 0	1 bag received.
Hertford	12 30	12 30	The same amount of work, occupying the same number of hours as before.
Hereford	13 0	10 0	6 bags received and 5 despatched.
Honiton	17 0	17 0	12 bags received and despatched.
Horddean	9 0	9 0	2 bags received.
Huddersfield ..	8 0	8 0	13 bags received, and 13 bags despatched.
Kendal	17 30	17 30	10 bags received, and 7 despatched. (The Office is closed to the Public between 10 and 5, but the work is done in the Office.)
Kingston	13 0	10 0	Office closed 3 hours longer than before. (75 bags are received and despatched from this Office on the Lord's Day.)

Names of Towns.	Length of time employed on Sundays as under				How Postmasters are occupied at present on Sundays between the hours of 10 A.M. and 5 P.M., with Remarks.
	Old arrangement.	New arrangement			
	hrs.	min.	hrs.	min.	
Launceston	16	0	16	0	10 bags received and despatched.
Liskeard	15	0	15	0	8 received, 11 despatched.
Luton	8	0	6	30	The Office closed 1 hour and 30 min. longer than before.
Maidstone	11	10	11	10	49 bags received, 28 despatched. 1 Postmaster, 3 Clerks, 11 Letter Carriers, 43 Country Receiving Offices, 4 Mail Cart Drivers;—in all, 62 persons. The Office has been closed for about two years from 10 A.M. till 5 P.M.
Newmarket	16	0	13	30	The Office closed 2 hours and 30 min. longer than before.
Northampton . . .	21	0	17	0	4 bags received and despatched.
Norwich	12	30	11	0	The Office closed 1 hour and 30 min. longer than before.
Nottingham	15	0	13	0	12 bags received, 6 bags despatched. Each Clerk is in attendance about 6 hours on Sundays.
Oswestry	9	0	9	0	No change.
Richmond, York . .	9	0	6	0	Office closed for 3 hours longer than before.
Rochester	12	0	12	0	No change.
Romford	10	0	10	0	19 bags received, 18 bags sent. Work increased.
Sandbach	13	10	11	10	2 bags received and 1 despatched.
Scole	11	0	11	0	25 bags received and despatched.
Sheffield	12	30	12	30	9 bags received, and 8 despatched. The Office is closed to the Public, but the work is going on within. The Letter Carriers are engaged on Sundays from 5.30 to 10.15 A.M. in sorting and delivering
Stockport	11	0	9	0	21 bags received and despatched.
Stonham-Aspall . .	12	0	10	0	The Postmaster is called up at 2 A.M. to give out the bags.
Stourbridge	16	0	14	0	Although closed to the Public, there is generally something to do in the Office between 10 and 5.
Stourport	16	0	13	0	The Office is closed 3 hours more than before.
Stowmarket	8	30	8	0	2 bags received, and 1 bag despatched. (With the exception of the attendance required for the receipt and despatch of these bags, the Office has for some time past been closed between 10 and 5.)
Tunbridge	11	0	11	0	No change.
Uxbridge	15	0	11	0	The Office is closed 4 hours longer than before.
Warwick	10	0	8	0	4 bags received, and 1 despatched.
Wendover	7	30	7	30	No change.
Wimborne	17	0	17	0	Very little difference.
Winchester	16	0	17	0	5 bags received, 3 bags despatched. The new arrangement will deprive the Postmaster of an hour, as the Office was formerly closed from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.
Woodbridge	13	30	13	30	No change.
Worcester	21	0	21	0	3 bags despatched. 1 Clerk will gain 4 hours. Office closed to the Public between 10 and 5, but the work going on within.
York	12	0	11	0	Very little difference.