

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

(Continued from our last)

BELLE RIVER, ONTARIO.

In this field, situated in Essex, the most westerly County of Ontario, ground was broken towards the close of last summer, Mr. A. F. Rivard being the missionary appointed to commence the work.

ST. ANNE, KANKAKEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS. This field, the former home of the Rev. O. Chiniquy, presents no features calling for special notice in regard to the work of the past year.

The General Assembly last year gave power to the Presbytery of Oshkosh to transfer this mission to the American Presbyterian Church.

Since the above was written, the Board learn, by a letter from Rev. C. Lafontaine, that in the last week of May, St. Anne was visited by nine priests, who held special services every day for a whole week.

QUEBEC CITY.

It is gratifying to be able to report that there is now a French congregation in connection with our own church in this stronghold of Romanism.

whereas there are upwards of 52,000 Roman Catholics. In such a field, the work necessarily is uphill, requiring strong faith on the part of the missionary and his little band of devoted followers.

OTTAWA CITY.

In this city, the capital of the Dominion, our missionary—Rev. M. Ami—continues to labor with great diligence and fidelity.

From the very interesting annual report of the congregation, which the limits of this report prevent appearing in full, the following extract in regard to the place of meeting is taken:

The Board express the hope that during the ensuing year, the English-speaking Protestants of Ottawa will set on foot a scheme for the purchase or erection of a suitable place of worship for our French Presbyterian congregation.

OTTAWA CITY, WEST END.

To assist Mr. Ami in his arduous labors, and with a view to open a preaching station in the western part of the city, the Board has appointed a student missionary—Mr. Joseph Allard—to Ottawa for the summer.

MONTRÉAL, CANNING STREET CHURCH.

Owing to the dimensions of the work in this city, and the number of laborers employed in connection therewith, together with the fact that the head quarters of the Board are here, the Church generally is more familiar with the progress made during the year in Montreal, than in any of the other fields occupied by the Board.

families have been brought under the sound of the Gospel. The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper, was administered in the new church in April.

The Communion Service was one of deep solemnity, and will long be remembered by those privileged to take part in it.

At the opening of the church a Sabbath school was organized, the attendance at which has averaged about forty-five.

The regular weekly prayer meeting on Thursday evenings has been well sustained, the numbers present ranging from 180 to 300.

MONTRÉAL, ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (RUSSELL HALL.)

While the new church has been thus a success, it has not been so at the expense of St. John's Church congregation, for the attendance there has not perceptibly decreased.

The Lord's Supper was dispensed once in this church during the year, the number communicating being seventy-five.

A Bible class was conducted by Mr. Doudiet during the winter. The Sabbath school has a roll of thirty-two scholars.

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surely requires considerable faith and courage on the part of a Roman Catholic to bring his city with a family dependent upon him to cast in his lot with those identified with our French Protestant congregations.

THE LADIES' FRENCH EVANGELIZATION SOCIETY.

This important auxiliary of the Board has been in active operation during the year. The Society leased a house in a central part of the city for a Mission House, and engaged the services of a lady as Matron.

On Wednesday afternoon a Bible reading was held, conducted by a Bible woman, under the supervision of Mrs. Prof. Campbell, the numbers of French Canadian women attending during the winter ranging from seventy to one hundred.

On Saturday afternoon a young girls' class for sewing and religious instruction was conducted by Mrs. A. B. Stewart and the Matron; the number availing themselves of this opportunity of receiving good was about twenty.

The Matron's time is chiefly spent in visiting, especially where there is sickness or distress, and in distributing relief chiefly in the way of clothing to those of the converts who are destitute.

The monthly meetings of the Society have been well sustained, several of the most active ladies of the various congregations of our church in Montreal taking part therein.

The total expenditure for the year was \$517.57, and the receipts, \$390.

As the Society purpose publishing a report of their work in the fall of the year, together with a full financial statement, it is only necessary here to commend their work to the sympathy and liberality of all our people, and to solicit on their behalf donations of clothing, bedding and contributions in money.

JOINT ENGLISH AND FRENCH WORK.

One very important feature in regard to the French evangelization work of the church, is in connection with its bearing on Home Mission work, especially in the Province of Quebec.

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FRENCH POPULATION OF THE DOMINION.

An erroneous idea exists in the minds of most of our people as to the field for French Evangelistic effort. Many suppose that it is confined exclusively or nearly so to the Province of Quebec.

In the Provinces of New Brunswick there are 45,000, and in that of Nova Scotia, 39,000 French-speaking people.

FINANCE.

From the full financial statements accompanying this report, it will be observed that the receipts for the past year from all sources for the ordinary fund amounted to \$30,578.79.

on hand at the beginning of the year. The total payments amounted to \$37,187.47, leaving a balance on hand in Montreal of \$1,284.00, and in Halifax of \$468.58.

In summing up this report, it is impossible to review the work of the past year without being constrained to say, "What has God wrought?"

The continued prosperity of the work in the fields formerly occupied by the Church; the large addition of ten other fields which during the year have been placed under the care of the Board, including such important centres as Danville, Joliette, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec City, and the new congregation in Montreal; the raising up by God of missionaries admirably adapted for these fields; the remarkable increase in the contributions to the funds of the Board in a year of unexampled commercial depression; and, above all, the large increase to the number of converts, and the general prosperity and advancement of the work of French evangelization in connection with the Board, all call for the deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to the Great Head of the Church.

To maintain in efficiency this most important department of the Church's work, the Board earnestly solicit the prayers and sympathy and increasing liberality of all the friends of the Mission, and above all, the continuance of the divine blessing and favor, without which all else is vain.

All of which is respectfully submitted, D. H. MACVICAR, LL.D., Chairman. R. H. WARDEN, Secretary-Treasurer. 210 St. James St., Montreal, June 1, 1877.

Random Readings.

Work to those who are engaged in the commission of unlawful deeds, for they cannot trust their nearest accomplices.

My heaven upon earth is communion with God; and therefore nothing else would be my heaven in heaven.—Rev. T. Adams.

"How long is it since your conversion?" said one to another. The reply was, "Nearly six years." "Do you think you will hold out?" "I don't hold; it's a strong arm that holds me."

We can not walk in two ways at the same time. We can not follow our own will and the will of God. We must choose the one or the other. We must deny God's will to follow our own, or we must deny self and self-will to follow the will of God.

BACKSLIDING is generally gradual—like the ebbing tide, wave after wave breaks upon the shore at apparently the same point, and it seems impossible to tell, by any two or three separate waves, whether it is the ebb or flow; but watch a few moments, and the outgoing waters soon tell their own tale.

The old couplet says: "When God erects a house of prayer The devil builds a chapel there." But to suit the fashion in which many conspicuous churches manage their affairs, it should now be said or sung:

"When God erects a house of prayer The devil puts a mortgage there."

You know, going into heaven will be like ships going into harbor. There will be some tugged in almost by miracle, "saved so as by fire;" others will be going in just with a sheet or two of canvass—they will "scarcely be saved!" but there will be some who will go in with all their canvass up, and unto these "an abundant entrance shall be ministered into the kingdom of their God and Saviour."—Rev. O. H. Spurgeon.

We will not see much that is attractive and helpful by simply looking inward. Standing at the mouth of a cave and gazing towards its depths, we see but little and cannot see far. It is when we turn the other way, and in the landscape lying before, all brilliant in the sunshine, that we find that which is worth our study. Let us look away from ourselves to Jesus, and studying his person and work, we will be gladdened with visions that will bring an eternal joy.

WHENEVER there is a revived condition of soul there will be a renewed devotion to Christian effort. When the sluggish believer is stirred up by the grace which reanimates his spirit, he will address himself to some practical work by which he will express his gratitude for the blessings sent him, and his wish to honor his gracious Master. "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" is the language alike of the newly converted man and the re-awakened Christian.