

SHALL THE FRENCH BE EVANGELIZED BY ENGLISH MISSIONARIES?

THE suggestive and comprehensive character of the question into which the title of the following article has been thrown, has, not unfortunately, confined the discussion within very narrow limits. By asking through whose instrumentality the French Canadians shall be evangelized, it insinuates, *first*, that these, our fellow-countrymen, are destitute of the blessings of the gospel of Christ; and *secondly*, that that religious system of extravagant pretensions, founded by the selfishness of the priesthood, maintained through the ignorance of the people, and claiming their unquestioning obedience, —that gigantic "ecclesiastical machine," which, operated from the council chambers of the Vatican by means of many secret agencies, hurls its thunderbolts of excommunication against all who place the word of God and the voice of conscience above the commands of the Pope, is no part of the Church of Christ. These two propositions implied in the heading of this paper, I shall not attempt to establish. The task now before me is rather, taking the truth of these as granted, to consider which is more likely to be successful in disseminating the saving truths of God's Word among the French Canadian Roman Catholics—a missionary of their own, or of another nationality.

Does some pious reader exclaim that this enquiry is unnecessary, reminding us that the salvation of a single soul, much less of a nation, is not the work of man but of God, to whose infinite mind the question of relative success never arises, and that He who enabled Samson to slay a thousand Philistines with the the jaw-bone of an ass can use any man, no matter what his mother tongue may be, to carry the gift of life eternal to our French Canadian citizens?

Quite true, salvation is of God, *only* and *entirely* of God, and "He hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise," and "the weak things of the world to confound the mighty." True, the spirit of God having "come mightily upon him" Samson slaughtered "heaps upon heaps" of the Philistines with the jaw-bone of an ass; but had there been a well equipped gatling gun at