

properly done. In order to place these S. S. publications on a paying basis, the series has been reduced from sixteen different forms to seven. This has considerably reduced the cost and, so far as can be judged as yet, has not interfered with the circulation. From this office has also been published a syllabus of Prayer Meeting Topics and Daily Readings for the use of Young People's Societies. From all which it is apparent, that our neighbor presides over a publication work already reaching, in one form or another, all classes and ages in the Church. The business has already attained to very important dimensions, and no man can tell whereunto it may grow. Mr. Scott's position is no easy one, and he takes seriously the responsibility of writing and planning for such a wide constituency.

#### MONTREAL JEWISH SCHOOL QUESTION.

IT is not generally known that there are between six and seven thousand Jews in Montreal, and the number is steadily increasing. They form an important factor in the civic and business life of the city. A few of them are decidedly wealthy, but the vast majority are in humble circumstances.

The School Law permits Jewish proprietors to pay their school tax to the Roman Catholic, the Protestant, or the Neutral panel.

For some time they preferred as a community to be reckoned Protestants for educational purposes. Their children accordingly received the same training as Protestant pupils; and in addition a teacher of Hebrew, nominated by the Synagogues, was employed in one school.

In 1886 a disagreement arose among the Synagogues regarding the selection of this teacher, and the Spanish and Portuguese Jews, who pay the greater part of the school tax, placed themselves under the control of the Roman Catholic School Commissioners who returned them 80 per cent of the amount of their tax for the support of a school of some 30 pupils taught in the Synagogue.

Meanwhile about 400 Jewish children continued to attend the Protestant Schools and the Commissioners received only a trifling share of the Jewish tax for their education.

The Board was advised by their counsel to exclude from their schools all Jewish children of non-tax paying parents. This seemingly drastic measure was not adopted. In 1894 a new arrangement was entered into. All the Jewish tax was placed in the Protestant panel. The School in the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue was discontinued. The teacher of Hebrew was from that date paid \$800 per annum, and a subsidy of \$8 per pupil was granted to the Baron de Hersch Jewish School which has an average attendance of 332 pupils. This agreement, which is annual, is still in force, but may be terminated by either party giving notice to that effect previous to 1st June.

The situation has become somewhat embarrassing to the Protestant School Board. They are educating, in whole or in part, nearly one thousand Jewish children. The school tax from the parents of these amounts to about \$4,678, and the cost of their education is at least \$12,000 per annum additional to this sum, which addition is paid, in the meantime, out of the Protestant tax. Is this serious draught upon it to be continued?

We understand that the Board have asked the Attorney General to determine whether they are obliged by law to make this outlay, and whether they are required to include in the curriculum of their schools the teaching of Hebrew.

It is manifest that the Board has dealt generously with the Jews, and not the slightest symptom of Anti-Semitic feeling is discoverable in their procedure. The decision of the Attorney General is a matter of grave importance. Indeed, the whole problem is deeply interesting.

The Bible is efficiently taught in the Protestant Schools, Jewish children are not obliged to take New Testament lessons, but very many of them do so voluntarily; and it is satisfactory to know that not the slightest difficulty has arisen among the Protestant denominations over the matter of Biblical instruction during the last thirty years. This says much for the wisdom of the School Board and its staff of teachers, and especially for the admirable spirit of Christian unity which pervades all Protestant denominations. There is no reason why it should be otherwise—God's book is the best that can hold a place in the programme of any educational system or institution, and why should not all be agreed to have its contents taught to the young.

#### MONTREAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of this Society, which differs from that of their Western sisters in that it embraces all the Missionary Schemes of the Church, was held in Crescent St. church on Tuesday the 8th inst. The meeting proved to be the best that they had ever held. The attendance was large, the papers were good, the tone was spiritual, the outlook was hopeful, and the treasury was fuller than it ever had been before by some \$300, not counting extra contributions from individual ladies for special objects.

The delegates from the country branches were welcomed to the meeting by Mrs. MacVicar and the reply was given by Mrs. Anderson of Beauharnois, president of a new auxiliary formed during the year. The President Mrs. Grier gave an admirable address to the Society on the spiritual aims necessary to make their work truly successful. A paper was read by Mrs. Hutchinson of Huntingdon on the Home Mission work of the Church, and one from Mrs. Brodie of Westmount on systematic giving. The representatives of the different auxiliaries gave brief reports of the state of matters in the several branches. The note was one of encouragement all along the line.

In the evening a public missionary meeting was held in Stanley St. church, at which the Rev. Mr. Dewey presided. Addresses were given by the Rev. Mr. George on "Foreign Missions," by the Rev. Mr. Pigeon on "Home Missions," and by the Rev. P. S. Vernier on "French Missions." The attendance at this evening meeting was not so large as had been anticipated, but the speeches were effective, and the influence of the meeting good. The Society goes forward to another year with courage and hope, believing that it is doing the Master's work.

All who know of the excellent work that is being accomplished by the Tract Society will rejoice at the evidence of successful work brought out by the report for February. During that month the colporteurs of the Society sold in Manitoba and Ontario, 200 copies of the Bible, and 1,603 volumes of religious books. Copies of the Scripture and general literature has been liberally distributed among several deserving institutions and lumber camps. Rev. Dr. Moffat, to whom so much credit is due for the success recorded, delivered no fewer than seventeen addresses and sermons during the month, in Ontario towns and cities.