

Our Home Work

NOTES FROM FRENCH MISSIONARIES.

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE.

Louis Bonnenfaut. Laboring in a district of Mont-real, writes, "during the month I read part of the Gospel in eighty families, and had prayer in twenty eight of them. It is a work of patience and time, because it is sometimes long before they see the truth. I brought to our church this month, two Roman Catholics who never came before.

One of our new families, named Taissent, lost a child by death last week. I passed half a day and a night to comfort them, in speaking, reading, and praying with them; and at the same time it did good to some Roman Catholics who came there, and I did not miss the occasion to speak and read to them as well as praying for them. I will show you how our new convert families are tempted by their Roman Catholic neighbors. One came to this house when I was away for my supper, and she said to Mrs. Taissent, "Let us pray on my beads while your husband and others are not here," but Mrs. Taissent answered her,—"No madam, I never will pray any more on your beads, and never conceal anything that I do from my husband."

Mr. Vernier. Writes from Anger, his field of labor, "I have kept away from old Protestant families during the month and have visited forty nine Roman Catholic families. With some of them I have spent two days, with others a shorter time. Nearly every time I am well received and have to spend much of the night reading and singing. It is really wonderful. I say, ignore the errors of the Church of Rome when you first meet with the people, preach Christ, at once you draw attention, and after a few hours they begin to say, "but what of purgatory, what of confession," and then it is time to deal with these things. God is blessing us. The only trouble is that man and horse are sometimes at the very end of strength."

Mr. J. P. Bruneau. Whose field is in the City of Quebec, says:—"The work for June in Quebec Mission has been somewhat satisfactory to me. A Roman Catholic has decided to join the Church at the next communion day, and of course to abandon Romanism. The family also that began to attend services last month will remain permanently, therefore being six faithful members it will be quite an addition to the church. Moreover two other families this month have begun also to attend our meetings, and I hope they will decide to come for good soon, but how soon I do not know. The work is certainly

hard, but with the grace of God we shall be able to face all the difficulties, and even be conquerors. Oh may God be our help. And we humbly ask to be remembered by you at the throne of God. Our meetings have been better this month than last, although several of our usual attendants have been away at their summer vacation. We have had several Roman Catholics to our services, from one to seven at each service, which is somewhat encouraging for the future of our work, which is rather God's work

Mr J. E. Menahan. Is working at Wauaubshene, and of his work for June he says:—"During last month there was quite an excitement raised in Wauaubshene, about some Scripture questions which I circulated in the village. Many Roman Catholics gathered and spoke of mobbing me. They caught hold of Mr. Paquette, where I board, who is a Roman Catholic,, and fought him so that the blood was all over his face, but they could not get him to chase me. On the 20th of June Mr. Paquette fell sick. Being in danger he thought his duty to send to the priest for him to come, so he came. When the priest saw his opportunity to use his influence he said to Paquette, 'If you do not send that man away, I will not give you the rites of the Church,' that is, the last sacraments. These words were the means of showing the light to that man, and of his conversion. I thank God that one more soul has come to Christ, and many more are on the way of salvation in this same village.

From the 20th to the 25th I had to remain near the bedside of Mr. Paquette. Every Roman Catholic had forsaken him. Even his own wife had done so. He is better, now thank God, and confesses the name of the Lord publicly. On the 28th I sent his obijuration to the priest, who cursed both the family and the house. I hope to be able to hold public meetings soon, for there are many indifferent persons who go neither to the Catholic nor Protestant Church.

Mr. E.H. Brandt. Writes from Cacouna, "As the Italian proverb says 'our work is going on slowly but firmly.' I am very much encouraged in my mission field, though the priest undertakes a true war against me. Almost every evening we gather together in a house to pray, to sing. Very often the neighbors come in to hear us. Last week I made three regular meetings, preaching the pure gospel without controversy. They were delighted and I hope they will come again. When I preach it is always the gospel—"Bonne Nouvelle" and the controversy comes in the conversation.

The priest of St Ensebe makes much noise. Like a merchant of slaves he bought his people, he paid the proprietor of the school and told him to put out Mr. Abram. The school is going on still. I wrote several times to Mr. Abram to take ground and not to leave the place.

At Kamouraska the place is dead for now. A merchant of apple trees passed by lately and bought all the Bibles and New Testaments. He was sent by the clergy of Quebec."