

PALM ✨ BRANCH.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH, 1899.

The subjects for prayer this month are French Canadian Missions and Papal countries.

In one of our recent conventions the question was asked, "Do you think that as much thought is given and prayer offered for the French work as for the foreign field?" One of the answers given was that it was not so prominently brought before us as the other fields. Another was that the work had to progress slowly and quietly, as there were difficulties in the way from priestly interference. Still another, that the results could not be so easily tabulated.

Now, it must be clear to all Canadians that no work ought to take hold of our hearts more strongly than this work among the people in our own country. Here is where those who plead for home work, as so much more necessary than foreign work, ought to be! Here is where those who are opposed to slavery, to despotism of any kind, political or ecclesiastical, ought to be. Are we patriots, or are we not? Are we philanthropists, or are we not? Are we Christians, or are we not? In proportion as we are patriots, philanthropists or Christians we will work and pray for the French Canadian people.

The French came originally to our land from religious motives, and with the laudable desire to convert the Indians over to Christianity. It is said that if true priests from the beginning had preached Christ and Him crucified, instead of proclaiming the errors of Rome, the destiny of French Canada would have been different. Since France yielded the land to Great Britain they have lived in peace among us and been a very loyal and law-abiding people.

All we want is their spiritual enlightenment; to give them the Gospel withheld from them. We cannot do less and be obedient to our Savior's command.

In reference to the answer that the work has not been as prominently brought before us as other work, we can truthfully say that much has been written on the subject, and as

far as our own society is concerned one of its most talented and consecrated members, the now venerable Mrs. Catherine Ross, of Montreal, has done all in her power, for years, to bring the work before us. Among others her pamphlet, "Why are we Protestants?" is an able argument on the question and a plain setting forth of the truth. She has also written leaflets both in French and English to be distributed among the French people themselves. We are much indebted to her for her valuable efforts in past years to enlighten the readers of THE PALM BRANCH in regard to the errors of the Romish Church.

It is true that the work is progressing slowly and quietly, but the heaven is surely working. And it may also be true that the results may not be so easily tabulated as some other results, but anyone who reads the annual report and the circular or pamphlet sent out by the Methodist French Institute every year, will see that good work is being done and well done, especially among the children, who are the hope of this land as of every other.

Just one more thought the best results cannot always be tabulated *here*—they must wait for the glorious development that eternity will bring.

The interesting and instructive letter on "Norway House," which arrived just a little too late for the last issue, is held over for a paper in the near future.

THANKFUL CHINESE WOMEN.

It is interesting to hear from a writer in *Life and Light* about a Thankoffering meeting in which Chinese women brought in their mite boxes, and had not time to recount all the blessings for which they were thankful. It seems that the native Christians have a flourishing woman's missionary society in Paoting-fu. For mite boxes, empty condensed milk tins were provided with covers by a worker, and Chinese fingers deftly covered them with the festive red paper. Then on the top of the can was written the text, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits," while below was the answer:

"Take my silver and my gold,
 Not a mite would I withhold."

These were given to the native Christian women. Six months later the little band came together to open the cans; and they had to be called down when they recounted their reasons for thankfulness, each one had so many that one or two would have taken all the time.

WORDS OF CHEER.

A poor man saved by thee, shall make thee rich.
 A sick man, helped by thee, shall make thee strong.
 Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense of service that thou renderest.

MRS. BROWNING.