

A large part of our space this week is devoted to an open letter to Ingersoll by Henry M. Field, of the New York Evangelist. Dr Field gives the history as follows: "Its origin was quite accidental, growing out of conversations with Mr. Ingersoll, which were of a familiar character, and furnished many topics for reflection, on which, the more we thought, the more the wonder grew that a man of so much intellectual ability could be content with such a hollow creed. Revolving the matter, it occurred to us to put our objections in the form of a Letter. But it proved more of an undertaking than we anticipated, as we revised it again and again, making innumerable changes, so that all together it took two or three months of hard work. When completed, it was sent to Mr. Ingersoll, with a note to the effect that "if it contained a single word that was offensive to him, it should be struck out," to which he replied that it had nothing to which he could except, although he did not agree with its conclusions.

THE PRESBYTERY OF WALLACE comprises nine congregations and one mission station, over which an ordained missionary has been placed. During the past year commendable progress has been made within the bounds of this Presbytery which should prove stimulating to others. There has been a very marked increase in the rate of giving, and very large accessions have been made to communion rolls. It now reports 1095 families—Spring Hill having received 45 last year, and 1958 communicants, with an addition in 1886 of over 500. The congregations receiving the largest accessions by profession were: Spring Hill, 186; Tatamagouche, 78; New Annan, 66; St. Matthew's, Wallace, 57. Arrears are not found in the statistical column. This cannot be said of any other Presbytery in the Maritime Provinces. \$1587 was raised last year for the schemes of the church as against \$794 for the previous year. The whole Presbytery has thus contributed double the amount raised in 1885. Such a rate of increase is very gratifying. If all our Presbyteries advanced in the same ratio much greater progress would be made in carrying on the work of the church.

But few blanks appear in the columns of finance. Earleton, which has been vacant for some time, has contributed to none of the schemes.

In Foreign Missions \$823 was raised against \$285 of the previous year. To every scheme of the church there has been a very marked increase in the rate of contributions. There is no column in the statistical returns showing the number of families observing family worship, but in this important matter there has been a very great improvement. In some single communities as many as from fifteen to twenty family altars have been erected of late, and there has been throughout the whole Presbytery a quickening of spiritual life and activity.

The weekly prayer-meetings are attended by 433 more than last year, and Sabbath-schools and bible-classes by 538 more.

Rev. Prof. Doudiet of Montreal, has been, in accordance with the instructions of the General Assembly, visiting the Maritime Provinces, addressing meetings and collecting money for the extension of the Pointe aux Trembles School. He has been fairly successful in some places, in others less so. He has given some facts that should be widely known.

The Pointe aux Trembles institutions have trained 3500 pupils. There are at least 1500 families of French Protestants formed out of our converts in these schools. In these schools 30 to 50 of the pupils join the church every session. The largest half of the pupils enter as Catholic, but few if any leave as such. There are now about 12000 French Protestants in the province of Quebec, and the number is increasing. There are now ten to twelve candidates every year for diplomas as Protestant teachers. Last year there were 300 applications for admission to the Pointe aux Trembles Schools and but 130 could be received. The aim now is to enlarge the buildings so that at least three hundred may be accommodated, and these 300 going out every year through various parts of the Province of Quebec will be among the most effective mission agencies that we have at work.

The Presbytery of Miramichi met at Bathurst, Sept. 20th. It was agreed to recognize Port Daniel, recently disjoined from the congregation of New Carlisle, as a mission station, with a session, Mr. Lindsay, Moderator, and they were to be encouraged to expect a student to labor among them, as one could be obtained, provided they would be willing to bear his