

state precisely, or even approximately, the resources of the Roman Catholic Church, which are drawn from the people to an oppressive extent by the exercise of legal and spiritual power. In proof of this, reference is made to the following points:

Tithes were first established in France by an ordinance of Charlemagne about the year 800, and continued to be exacted until 1789, when they were abolished under the Republic by a decree which provided that the Roman Catholic Clergy should be supported by a salary granted by the State. In the Province of Quebec, by the edict of May, 1679, the tithe was fixed at the twenty-sixth part of the yearly produce of the land, and of the increase of the stock fed from the land. Subsequently, by decree of the Council of State, July 12th, 1707, the tithe or "dime" was fixed definitely at one twenty-sixth of grains only, to be harvested, threshed, winnowed and delivered at the priest's parsonage. On the conquest of the Province by Great Britain, in 1763, it was provided by the 27th Article of the Instrument of Cession that Roman Catholics should be obliged by the English Government to pay their priests the tithes and all the taxes they were used to pay under the Government of "his most Christian Majesty."

Accordingly, by Act of the British Parliament (14 Geo. 3, ch. 83), passed in 1774, this provision was ratified, and the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church were authorized to "hold, receive and enjoy their accustomed dues and rights, with respect to such persons only as should profess the said religion."

Thus the matter stands to this day, so that a priest has a direct action at law against members of his parish for the collection of tithes and church dues, and the people have no option in this respect.

Among other sources of ecclesiastical revenue, additional to the tithes, may be mentioned income from personal property, rents of improved real estate, ground rents, charges for prayers offered for souls in purgatory, and for church ceremonies at baptisms, marriages, and burials. A special tax is often levied in cities and towns, and sometimes in country places where the tithes are small and regarded as insufficient. There is no law to enforce such tax, but it is competent for the priest to refuse to say mass or perform some religious ceremony until it is paid. But the largest and most oppressive assessments are usually made in connection with the construction of churches, repairs, etc.

The legal power conferred upon the Romish hierarchy for these purposes is practically unlimited. In the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada, chap. 18, it is provided that on a petition being presented to the bishop of the diocese, by a majority of freeholders in any parish, for the construction of a church, chapel, or parsonage-house, he shall proceed to a final decree in the matter, according to the ecclesiastical law and the practice of the diocese. Where church extension is desired by the priesthood, no difficulty is usually experienced in procuring from the parishioners the necessary petition. Something more than gentle pressure can be brought to bear upon them through the confessional, and a threat of withholding the sacraments, which is equivalent to cutting off the only means of salvation and involving them in eternal ruin. The bishop determines the style and cost of the building to be erected. To meet this, a tax is levied upon the property of the faithful and collected, if need be, by legal process. The statute in this behalf has been repeatedly amended giving enlarged powers to fabricates to expropriate lands for cemetery and other church purposes. It is by the practical working of the provisions of this law that the spectacle is furnished in every part of the country of magnificent churches, parsonages, etc., surrounded by the cheap and shabby dwellings of an impoverished people.

Each bishop determines the charges for baptisms, funerals, masses, etc., for his own diocese, and therefore prices vary. The fees for funerals are made a matter of agreement between the parties concerned and the church authorities, and they are so arranged, especially in cases of extra masses, the use of large bells, decorations, etc., as to yield the clergy immense revenues.

Some idea may be formed of the annual income from this source in the parish of Montreal from the following scale of charges: For ringing the bells at baptism, when performed in the Church, \$28, that is, \$20 for the great bell and \$8 for the three smaller ones.

For funeral ceremonies in the Church of Notre Dame the prices range from \$300 to \$10, there being nine classes, graded according to their monetary value. \$300 command an elaborate service, embracing ringing of the great bell, and the ten smaller ones, high mass, with a full display of the sacred silver, vases, etc., gold embroidered ornaments for seven altars, a choir, 108 silver-plated candlesticks with candles, thirty-six choir boys, beadle and priests. The charges for funeral ceremonies in the Church of Notre Dame for a child under seven years of age are: first-class, \$35, second-class, \$20, third-class, \$10, fourth-class, \$5. We must add enormous amounts drawn for masses said for the repose of souls of deceased relatives, which are repeated year by year, as long as funds are forthcoming to pay for them. And so great is the demand for masses in the Province of Quebec that the priests, a large and ever-increasing army, as is well known, are unable to find time to say them all, and therefore employ as their assistants priests residing in France, who draw an income from Canada for performing this work. Usually, the board of trustees collects many of these dues and accounts for them to the parish priest, but frequently the priest collects them himself, giving an account to the trustees, and just now there is a struggle going on, which is in harmony with the spirit of the whole system, to take the management of the church temporalities entirely out of the hands of laymen. Recently, as the outcome of the celebrated Guilford case, the Parliament of Quebec passed an Act (39 Vic. chap. 19) to prevent all conflict between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, respecting burials and Roman Catholic cemeteries, which is done by simply giving the Church absolute control in these matters.

Over and above the direct monetary assessments referred to there are other burdens laid upon the people which are to be taken into account. The second article of the Quebec Code of Civil Procedure provides for the observance of about

two weeks, annually, of special religious holidays, which is a serious inroad upon the earnings of working men, and an obstruction to the general course of business.

It is well known that the Church owns property, amounting in value to untold millions of dollars, all of which is exempt from taxation. She is constantly adding to her wealth, drawing revenues, as has been shown, from many sources, freely using the power of civil law to promote her own ends, controlling not only the Parliament of Quebec, but even the legislation of the Dominion by holding the balance of political power through her submissive votaries, and yet contributing nothing to the maintenance of the machinery of Government.

So far as the education of Romanists in the Province of Quebec is concerned it may be said to be wholly in the hands of ecclesiastics. It is thoroughly permeated, from the most elementary to the highest departments, by the spirit and principles of Ultramontaniam. And the spacious nunneries, which receive so many of the daughters of Protestants, and in which thousands of pupils, in the hands of skillful nuns, are being moulded by the same power, are subject, as a rule, to no public inspection.

But why preface the record of our year's missionary work with these details? Because it is believed the information is needed by very many persons in Canada, and because in spite of all our efforts, and their undeniable success, the system which carries with it all the evils hinted at, and many others even more deplorable, is spreading and strengthening itself in every part of Quebec and beyond its limits.

As an instance of this, it may be mentioned that last month public meetings of the Protestants of the county of Megantic were held in Leeds, Inverness, Kinross Mills, and South Ireland, to take steps for the formation of a colony near Calgary, in the North-West Territory. Resolutions were passed declaring, among other things, that many English-speaking people had already left the county, that resident farmers were about to leave as soon as they could dispose of their property, and that this was due to the fact of the rapid increase of French Canadians within the last few years, rendering educational advantages and control unsatisfactory. A similar influx of this people is taking place in Eastern Ontario in the counties of Prescott and Osgooshty. They are aided in this movement for displacing Protestants by the Church which directs the work of colonization, whether carried on in name of special societies by means of lotteries, etc., or by the Government of Quebec.

This is a matter of the gravest significance to our whole Dominion in many ways and particularly from a religious point of view. It touches municipal and educational interests, and is designed to affect most deeply the spiritual life of our people, for as stated in last year's report, there is an unmistakable growth of idolatry among certain classes of the French people. The old fanaticism while not as wide spread is as deep and intense as ever. Romanism does not change. Ultramontanists cherish the dream that the French nationality is to remain wholly Roman Catholic and to rule this Dominion. They do not hesitate to say, in unguarded moments, that even English-speaking Protestants are only tolerated in the meantime in this part of the British Empire; and if they find means through educational hardships, local persecutions and such like, to drive out determined, well taught English-speaking Presbyterians, it is surprising that they should be successful in doing the same to recent converts from among themselves?

If it be asked, how are the crushing disabilities which have so long rested on this people to be removed? the answer is by teaching them, educating young and old, giving them the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that they may inhale the spirit of true freedom, and rise themselves and cast off the yoke, demanding from Parliament the abolition of tithes and compulsory exactions of all sorts; and when all such laws are swept from our statute book and the Church is thoroughly disestablished, and the people are set free, our whole Dominion shall have gained a boon of priceless value. Such a reformation is to be the outcome of the spirit of true patriotism and of true Christian heroism—that which animates the supporters of this mission and the colporteurs, teachers and missionaries of the Board of French Evangelization.

## Books and Magazines.

OUR BOYS IN THE NORTH-WEST. (The Sun Office, Stayner.)—An original song and music, suggested by recent events in the North-West. The music is simple and appropriate to the spirit-stirring words of the song.

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE. (Rochester: James Vick.)—Each number of this attractive little magazine contains a beautifully coloured frontispiece of some choice flower. Though this monthly is not without interest to the general reader, it will be specially prized by all who delight in gardening.

BIBLICAL EXPOSITOR AND PEOPLE'S COMMENTARY. By Jacob M. Hirschfelder. (Toronto: Rowell & Hutchison.)—The twenty-eighth number of this valuable and scholarly commentary has made its appearance. Its author has taken an early opportunity to utilize the Revised Old Testament, on which he makes some judicious criticisms.

WORDS AND WEAPONS FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS. Edited by Rev. George F. Pentecost, D.D., Brooklyn. (New York: Henry T. Holt.)—This is a new magazine especially addressed to Christian workers—designed to promote their efficiency by recording methods,

experiences and practical suggestions. It will no doubt prove most useful and stimulating.

EL-JAH AND EL-SHA, OR THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL. By John R. Whitney. (Philadelphia: American Sunday School Union.) This little pamphlet, with the apparently odd title, is a "suggestive pre-view of the International Series of Sunday School Lessons for the last six months of 1885," and will be found to be useful by both teachers and scholars.

THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE. By Etty Woosnam. (London: S. W. Partridge & Co.) This neat little book is a posthumous volume. It is composed of brief sketches of typical women mentioned in the New Testament. The characters are delineated with fine appreciation and clear insight, while the lessons taught by the lives portrayed are ably enforced.

LITTEL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—The numbers of the *Living Age* for June 20th and 27th contain Prince Bismarck sketched by his Secretary, and Memoirs of M. de Vitrolles, *Edinburgh*, Diet in Relation to Age and Activity, by Sir Henry Thompson, *Nineteenth Century*, A Scarce Book, Collett's "Rural Rides, *National*, The Royal Mail, *Blackwood*, Sully-Prudhomme, *Temple Bar*; A Visit to Goa, *Monthly*, In the Florida Pine Woods, *All the Year Round*, with instalments of "A House Divided Against Itself," "The Light on the Seine," "Unexplained," and poetry.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.) The subjects chosen for literary and artistic treatment in the July number of this now favourite monthly are suited to the season. The frontispiece, "Reflections," is specially good. Henry Irving's address to the students of Harvard, with a fine portrait of the author, is the opening article. "The Pilgrimage of the Thames," and "In the New Forest," are descriptive papers suitably and profusely illustrated. Fiction of the best is presented to the readers. There is a fine little tribute to the memory of Hugh Conway, whose last work, "A Family Affair," is appearing in the pages of the *English Illustrated Magazine*.

THE RILL REBELLION, 1885. (Montreal: *Witness* Printing House.) What with the graphic delineations of special journalistic correspondence, and other copious narrative, the North-West rising has produced a prolific literature of its own. The inexpensive historical sketch emanating from the office of the *Montreal Witness* supplies a clear, connected and well written account of the origin, culmination and close of the rebellion that has attracted so much attention during the last three months. It is likely to have an extensive circulation, as it is worth preserving as a record of the stirring events beginning with the Duck Lake fight and ending with the return from the pursuit of Big Bear. Its value is enhanced by a number of well executed engravings.

THE PULPIT TREASURY.—(New York: E. B. Tietz.) The number for July is prompt in time, full in matter and excellent in spirit. Every preacher will find in its pages light, stimulus and abundant helpful materials in all departments of his work. A portrait of President Stephens, of Adrian College, is given as a frontispiece. His sermon, sketch of life, view of his college and former church edifice are also presented. Other sermons are by some of the best living preachers, as Professor Gerhart, Drs. R. S. Storrs, J. G. Hunter, J. Hall, Wm. M. Taylor and J. H. Rivers. Notable articles on a variety of interesting themes by several of the most distinguished divines in Europe and America appear in this number. Other departments are filled with articles of unusual merit.

NEW ILLUSTRATED GEOGRAPHY AND ATLAS. By W. C. Campbell. (Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.)—This finely executed educational work is a great advance on previous publications of the same kind. Admirably adapted as it is for elementary study, it will be of value as a work of general reference to the student and to the business man, containing as it does copious and accurate information on subjects of interest to the merchant and the trader. The many valuable details are drawn from the latest and most authentic sources. The maps, thirty-six in number, engraved by J. Bartholomew, F.R.G.S., are carefully executed. They are full-page in size and finely coloured. The work is also profusely illustrated by electrotypes engravings. The substantial merits and usefulness of this work are its best recommendations.