

of good results in the future. But while gladly recognizing every movement which makes for righteousness and freedom, it is believed that permanent success is only to be achieved along the lines of gospel activity pursued by the General Assembly through the missionaries of this Board. A healthy, trust-worthy and thoroughly patriotic christian spirit is to be kindled among the people enslaved through superstition and error, by teaching them the truth of God from house to house, in mission schools, and properly equipped churches. When this is done upon a much larger scale than at present they will voluntarily cast off the yoke of priestly oppression, and, instead of being a cause of anxiety and possible disintegration, will become a homogeneous factor in the progressive national life and christianity of our country.

Already there are wide-spread and marked symptoms among French Roman Catholics themselves of the bitter discontent with which they endure the heavy exactions of the church. In the case of hundreds and thousands of the most intelligent of the people this movement from within takes the direction of demanding an entire separation between church and state, the abolition of legalized tithes and church dues, the secularization of elementary education in the sense of setting it free from clerical control, the inspection by government officers of all monastic or conventual institutions, and the compulsion of the Sulpician Seminary and other enormously wealthy ecclesiastical corporations to render an account of the expenditure of revenues received for certain specific purposes. Surely there is in these things a loud call to the lovers of truth and freedom to increase an hundred fold their prayers, their liberality, and their activity to hasten the national and spiritual emancipation of the whole people.

COLPORTEGE.—During the past year sixteen Colporteurs were employed by the Board in the distribution of the Word of God and other religious literature among our French speaking fellow-countrymen. There are now comparatively few families in the Province of Quebec that have not been offered the Bible, almost every parish having been visited by Colporteurs during the last twenty-five years. The circulation last year reached 2,578 copies of the Scriptures, in whole or in part, and about 24,500 French Tracts and Pamphlets. Cottage prayer meetings are held in the homes of those sufficiently well disposed. In this way small assemblies numbering from ten to twenty are gathered together in many parts of the country. In addition to the densely settled French Catholic Counties in the Province of Quebec, Colporteurs have laboured during the year in several of the Counties in New Brunswick and Eastern Ontario where there are extensive French Canadian settlements; and recently in the Penetanguishene district

where there is a large number of French speaking Roman Catholics.

MISSION SCHOOLS.—In many districts, especially in the Province of Quebec, the children grow up in ignorance, unable either to read or write. To remedy this the Board seek to plant Mission Schools wherever suitable openings are found. These are of very great benefit to the English Protestant population in those districts where they are numerically weak and unable to maintain a school of their own. At present there are thirty-six schools in connection with the fields worked by the Board; the number of children attending these schools is 1,020, of whom 423 are the children of Roman Catholics. The number of schools has trebled in the last eight or nine years, and the number of pupils has increased from 475 to upwards of 1,000.

POINTE AUX TREMBLES SCHOOLS.—These schools are situated on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, nine miles east of Montreal. They were founded in 1846 by the French Canadian Missionary Society, and were purchased by the General Assembly of our Church in 1880. On the mission property there are two school buildings, one for boys, which can accommodate, including the recent extension, about 120, and the other for girls, with accommodation for between 40 and 50. Upwards of 3,200 French Canadians have already been educated here. Many of these now occupy positions of trust and influence as ministers, teachers, physicians, lawyers, merchants, etc. Pupils are admitted between the ages of thirteen and twenty-five, the average age being seventeen. A preference is given to the sons and daughters of French Roman Catholic parents and to the children of recent converts from Rome, living in parishes where there is no Protestant school. Special prominence is given to the religious instruction of the pupils and to the teaching of God's Word on the points of difference between Protestants and Roman Catholics. And it is no exaggeration to state that comparatively few of our English-speaking young men and women are better acquainted with their Bibles, or better able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, than can the pupils of Pointe aux Trembles when they leave the Mission Schools there. The attendance last session was one hundred and forty-three, of whom ninety-six were in the boys' building, and forty-seven in the girls. The applications for admission numbered nearly three hundred. In no previous year in the history of the schools was there a brighter and more intelligent class of pupils. Year after year God has manifestly set his seal upon this work, and blessed the labours of the teachers, but never perhaps has there been a more successful session than the one just ended. "The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad."