

NOTES BY A FRENCH PASTOR.

THERE is growing evidence that the Presbyterian Church in Canada is deeply interested in the evangelization of the French inhabitants of this Province. A considerable amount of money is annually expended in the prosecution of that work and the press, especially that portion of it which is under Presbyterian influence, teems with articles the tenor of which is growing more and more favorable. My object, in writing this article, is not to furnish statistics; these can be found in the Annual Report which is accessible to all and which is well worth reading; it is rather to foster an interest in this important work by telling your readers something they cannot find in reports. Let me write briefly, then regarding the methods, difficulties and encouragements connected with French Evangelization.

Are we justified in considering the Roman Catholic Church a branch of the Christian Church? Pastors and missionaries who are personally engaged in that difficult but necessary work are of one mind on this point and hold that if Romanism is to be judged by its fruits, it has no right to that title. In order to shed light upon that subject, I have asked the following question of a score or more of Roman Catholics during the last few years: *What must a man do to be saved?* I have received the following answers: "Do what the Priest tells you."—"Obey the Church."—"Go to Church; do penance; confess at least once a year and observe the *Commandments of the Church*." Only once, during a missionary experience of ten years, did I receive the right answer and it was an Irish Catholic who had a copy of the Douay Bible who furnished it. It is painfully evident that the great majority of Roman Catholics believe that if a man has been baptized and confirmed; if he pays his tithes, confesses to the Priest; if, in a word, he yield outward obedience to the Church, he is a good Christian! Is the tree good which bears such fruit? Is the Church which preaches such a Gospel, and inculcates such principles, a branch of the Christian Church? I hereby solemnly assert that the majority of those with whom I have conversed know nothing of Salvation by Faith, they believe they are saved by *doing* and not by *believing*.