

they possess the means of purchasing them. It is not unusual to see from three to ten taverns in small settlements, and the habits which sustain 267 shops in Montreal where liquor is sold by the glass, extend with fearful uniformity to the country.

It is only justice, however, to say that recent and vigorous temperance efforts in Montreal, and in some country parishes, made by the Roman Catholics have been followed with excellent success.

RECEPTION OF THE AGENTS.

In the outset of an enterprize like this, escape from opposition could not be, and was not expected, and therefore the resistance experienced has not disheartened your Committee, nor intimidated your Agents.

Priests have not hesitated to denounce the latter in some cases, as those who gave bad counsels, who had come to destroy souls, and were false prophets, all which charges the Colporteurs have skilfully refuted, and with no loss of temper.

One of their journals contains an interesting account of the readiness with which some persons believed that your Agents were cloven-footed, when this was asserted by a priest.

"Dec. 16.—To day I visited a person to whom we had lent a Bible. Several of his neighbours came, and in an instant more than fifteen persons were assembled. Very much pleased, I thought they had come as before to listen to the reading of the Scriptures, but when I wished to read a chapter, a good deal of noise took place. I endeavoured to address them seriously on the danger in which they were, if they died unconverted, when they would be eternally lost. It was of no avail; but what astonished me most was that they kept always looking at my feet. Seeing no hope of obtaining their attention, I was leaving, not wishing to cast my pearls before swine, when one of them whispered to me to show them my left foot. Upon that, a woman said that their priest had told them that in the latter days false prophets would come, and that we were such: that we were malignant spirits escaped from the bottom of hell, and come to destroy their souls. 'But my dear hearers,' said he, 'would you know them, then when they visit you, ask them to uncover their left foot, and they will be found cloven like those of a cow or sheep. Those, however, who have not their feet cloven, are good people, and you can listen to them.'

"After this reply, I took off my shoe and stocking, but oh! my dear brethren, it is impossible to describe what passed in my heart, on viewing these poor people crowding round me to look at my foot. I immediately saw a great change on their countenances. Their fear and prejudices disappeared, and I had the joy of announcing the gospel to them. They listened with much attention, and I took the advantage of the priest's falsehood respecting the cloven foot, to show them that all the other things he said against us were alike false."

Another writes:—

"At ———, several heads of families encouraged me to open a school. But having seen the opposition of the priests who had formally declared that if they sent their children to my school, he would no longer receive them to mass nor confession, and would not baptize their children, and moreover that they would be damned, they withdrew. Meanwhile, some violent enemies of the gospel have advanced payment for some months' instruction for the children of ——— at S. (another village.) Thus the Lord turns into good the evil that these men propose, and will overrule those instructions, sooner or later, to His own glory."

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