

THE FRENCH MISSION.

The condition and prospects of this mission have received the best attention of your Board. In order to obtain the most satisfactory information in reference both to the condition of the field and the wishes of the people residing there, a committee consisting of Rev. J. A. Stubbert and Rev. A. Cohoon, was appointed to visit the different stations connected with this mission, and to furnish your Board with an impartial report of the results of their inquiries. The committee performed their work faithfully, and presented a clear and detailed statement of what they had learned from observation. That report will, if called for, be laid before the Union.

About the same time Bro. Normondy tendered his resignation. This brought the whole matter practically and seriously before your Board for immediate decision. Meanwhile, the French Mission was found to be considerably in debt. It was manifest that whatever might be decided as to the future, the liabilities already incurred must be promptly and honorably met. Bro. Normondy was accordingly requested to visit the churches as far as possible for the purpose of collecting necessary funds. He did so; but his efforts in this respect were only partially successful.

It is very evident to your Board that there has been serious declension in the interest manifested by our denomination towards the French Mission. As a natural result the mission itself seems to be declining in efficiency and success. These considerations impel your Board to raise a few important questions which our Denomination ought at once to decide: Shall we abandon this mission? Shall we accept the resignation of Bro. Normondy and endeavor to secure the services of another missionary? Or shall we renew our engagement with Bro. Normondy and pledge ourselves to manifest more sympathy and benevolence in sustaining him? Your Board hesitate to undertake the decision of a matter in reference to which they have not yet fully ascertained what are the views held generally by our brethren.

THE BOOK DEPARTMENT.

A number of Sunday Schools have been supplied from our depository during the year. Many missionaries and pastors have also been furnished with denominational and miscellaneous works, doctrinal pamphlets and religious tracts adapted to arouse careless unbelievers and to stimulate inactive christians. About one thousand volumes of wholesome literature have in this way been sent abroad since our last report was given; and a much larger number of tracts have been gratuitously distributed. The amount expended for these books and tracts was \$445.42, whilst the receipts have reached the sum of \$443.02. Books remaining in hand are valued at \$200.00, and upwards of \$50.00 is due our treasury from schools which have obtained libraries from our Book Depository.

Your Board deeply regret the delay that has been occasioned in the establishment of a suitable Book Room; and it is earnestly