

port; the parents see that more attention, is given in preparing their children for school, and that they are encouraged to greater regularity and punctuality in their attendance. Above all, let parents themselves come occasionally. Teachers and children will rejoice to see them; by so doing they will strengthen our hands, and encourage our hearts in our labour of love, and we will all be co-workers together for Christ.

W. Huxter, Supt.

Missionary Intelligence.

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The following has been handed to us by Rev. R. Wallace, General Agent of the Society, and we willingly comply with his request to publish it.

The Twenty-first Anniversary of this Society was held on 26th January, 1860, in the Wesleyan Church, Great St James Street. It is computed over 3,500 persons were present, while many could not gain admission. After a hymn in French had been sung by the pupils from Pointe aux Trembles, the General Secretary's Report was read by the Rev. Henry Wilkes, D. D. Resolutions were then moved and addresses delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Bonar, Gemley, Williams, (of the Grande Ligne Mission,) and Kemp. Rev. Canon Bancroft, Rev. Wm. Taylor, D.D., Rev. J. Carruthers, D. D., of Portland, and Rev. R. Wallace, General Agent. The presence on the platform of the Rev. C. Chiniquy, who had unexpectedly arrived, especially as it was his first appearance before a Protestant audience here, contributed greatly to the interest of the meeting. Having been introduced by the Rev. Canon Bancroft and Dr Wilkes, he first gave in English an interesting account of the work of God, among the French Canadians of Illinois. He also declared his unabated affection for his Roman Catholic countrymen, and advised that every effort for their conversion should be made in the spirit of love and gentleness, as thus only we could win them to the Gospel. He also spoke briefly in French, advising his hearers (amongst whom were several French Canadians) to read the Word of God for themselves, and urging upon them, that whatever respect they owed their priests, a far higher respect was due to the Holy Scriptures, which should be the standard of appeal in all inquiries after truth. The speaker was repeatedly applauded, and there seemed to be left on the minds of all a deep conviction as to the goodness of the work in which Mr. Chiniquy was engaged, and confidence in his sincerity and Christian character.

The Report read showed that marked progress in the work has been made during the year, and that a great and favorable change was rapidly taking place in the French Canadian mind.

The following is a summary of the operations, commencing with the Educational Institutes of Pointe aux Trembles. The number of both sexes who have at different times during the year attended at Pointe aux Trembles is 156, viz.: 97 boys and 59 girls. The present number is about 100.—About two-thirds of the boys, who

come from 41 different parishes, belong to Roman Catholic parents; the rest being the children of converts. These youths are generally ignorant of the first elements of education when they come to the missionary institutions, and thus should be kept in view, in order to appreciate the satisfactory manner in which the pupils acquit themselves at the annual examinations. During the past year the moral conduct of the pupils was satisfactory, and religious impressions prevailed generally their minds. Two having given satisfactory evidence of conversion, were admitted to the Lord's table; while eleven more seem to have received serious convictions. A prayer-meeting is kept up regularly by the youth themselves. Finally, the general health of the pupils is good, and not one case of death has occurred among them for the last eight years.

The Report relates the case of a boy who, after a short course of instruction, felt anxious to consult the priest about several passages of Scripture, which struck him as not in accordance with the doctrines of his church. He, with other lads, called upon the priest, and, presenting a New Testament, asked whether it was a good book or not. The priest would not answer his question, but ordered him to leave the College of the Swiss—to go home and call on the priest of his own parish. The youth returned greatly disappointed,—and since then he reads the New Testament with confidence, and surrenders himself to its teaching.

The Institutes are much visited by the parents and relations of the pupils, and by other French Canadians, on their way to and from the city. They are no longer afraid of coming into contact with the missionaries, but seem to feel at home, and very readily attend worship. On returning, they tell their families and neighbours what they saw and heard at the College. Favourable impressions are thus produced, and doors opened to the colporteurs when they visit these localities.

Four young men, trained at the Institute, have engaged this year, for the first time, as colporteurs. One began his education in a Romish College, and was destined to become a friar of the Christian schools; but the word of God reached him, (an account of which is given in the Report,) and, after preparation at Pointe aux Trembles, he has rendered good service as a colporteur. At Pointe aux Trembles the congregation, including pupils, amounts to 163, and the attendance on Sabbath averages 130, so that the meeting there presents an encouraging aspect. The communicants number 30—being an increase of three over last year. A Sabbath School is also held, and attended by all the pupils. Besides the Institutes at Pointe aux Trembles, there are two local schools, at which 80 children are taught.

The Report gives full details of the other departments of the Society's operations, viz., *Evangelization, and Colportage*. There are twelve stations where colporteurs, evangelists, or pastors reside, serving as centres, from which they diffuse the influences of the Gospel.

At Quebec, last Spring, a favourable impression was made on the French population, by a visit from the Rev. Mr. Chiniquy, who, as a priest, had there been very popular. Many came to the Missionary, Mr. Solandt, to procure tracts and New Testa-

ments. In one month he received 63 calls from Romanists coming to hold religious conversations with him, and he made 51 visits, at most of which he was allowed to expound the Word of God and to pray. He also disposed of 69 copies of the Scriptures and some hundreds of tracts. Several R. Catholic parents in Quebec and neighbourhood are anxious to send their children to Pointe aux Trembles, and are only prevented by the expense.

At Industry Village several families have refused to go to confession, considering it a degradation to surrender their conscience to the power of one man, in whom they had but limited confidence. During the last three months Mr. Vessot has disposed of 58 copies of the Word of God, and has frequent opportunities for religious discussion, on market days especially. Interesting details are given in the Report, as to the other stations, and labours of the colporteurs. A peculiar aspect of the work during the past year is the increased amount of evangelistic effort put forth; thirteen colporteurs having traversed the country, going from door to door with the message of peace. All of these, except four, are French Canadians, converts of the Mission, and, with one exception, trained at the Missionary Institute of Pointe aux Trembles. These devoted labourers have met a more favourable reception and greater success than ever before. They find the people beginning to suspect that their own religion is not in accordance with the Word of God, and, as might be expected, anxious to learn what are its teachings upon the all-important subject of religion and the way of salvation.

An interesting feature of the work is the existence and new formation of churches among the converts brought out of Romanism through the Society's instrumentality. In last year's Report it was stated that four churches had constituted themselves into a Synod, and had adopted a constitution similar to the Union of the Evangelical Churches of France, with which body also they had affiliated themselves. This step, although meeting the approval of the committee, was altogether a spontaneous act, as the Society does not interfere in any way with their free action in the matter of church organization. This year a fifth church was organized by the converts at Warwick and Inverness,—besides which, there are other places where infant churches are ready to be formed. Some notice of the churches will be interesting.

The French Evangelical Church at Montreal receives, as heretofore, the ministrations of the Rev. Messrs. Wolff and Tanner—Mr. Van Bueren, acting as city Missionary. The attendance is about 60, and the members 27. It is of great importance as a means of strengthening and increasing the church, that a place of worship of their own be speedily erected; and it is to be hoped the appeal now making by the congregation for aid towards this object will not be in vain.

At Belle Riviere a French Protestant Church has been erected, and is now ready for occupation. It is of stone, covered with tin, with a neat spire, and will accommodate about 250 persons; Mr. Doudiet is pastor, and Mr. Ami catechist. Taking together Belle Riviere, St. Martin and St. Andrew's as a missionary district,—where