

‘ Thirty preaching stations have been opened and twelve churches organized.

“ Through the faithful efforts of its Missionaries, family after family is brought to the truth, and education and spiritual light are spread among the people.

“ Hundreds of copies of God’s Word were circulated among Catholics last year, most of which were sold to them. The spirit of inquiry is increasing every year, and the masses are becoming more and more accessible.

“ They who look into the financial management of the Mission marvel at the strict economy practised, and the inexpensive way in which its work is carried on.

“ THE CONVERTS are increasing their contributions every year for the support of the cause, but a much larger sum than they can give is required for the prosecution of the work.”

Mons. Therrien selected John xvii. 17, as the portion on which to base his remarks—“ Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth.” He observed that this was the central petition of five, and proceeded to dwell on the enquiry—“ What is Truth?” and on certain opinions as to what mode of proceeding should be adopted towards those who know not God; he drew a contrast between those who “ preach what the Church teaches,” and those who like himself endeavour to preach what the Bible teaches; Mons. T. gave us an anecdote of Sir Walter Scott, which was probably known to some of those present; it related to a request made by Sir Walter, on his death-bed, to his son-in-law, that he should read to him; the son enquired—“ From what book?” to which the author of so many replied—“ There is but One Book.”

Mons. Therrien also spoke of a case which had come under his own notice, which originated in the illness of the person, whose experience he described; this was the case of a person who for twenty years had rejected the story of the Cross, so far as related to any application of it to her own case; she however was overtaken by a dangerous illness, and when she supposed she was dying she begged for a lengthening of her days, and promised her Maker that in the event of her life being spared, she would “ feel after the truth if haply she might find it;” when partially recovered, and quite unfit to undertake such an expedition, she made known her desire to her husband, to visit some relatives who lived at a distance of sixteen miles; the husband suspected that this contemplated visit would be made in quest of light; he therefore stoutly and repeatedly resisted it; he lived however to realize something of the force of “ when she will, she will,” as the good woman undertook to walk sixteen miles, in order to accomplish her object; this she managed to effect in two days; on arriving at the home of her astonished friends, she informed them that her object was to seek the truth; she sought it thus, and according to the testimony of Mons. Therrien who baptized her, she sought it not in vain; her husband, who for many years had been kind to her, was exasperated at the change in her views, refused her admittance to her home on her return, threw her clothes out of the window and bade her be gone, etc.; he however ultimately relented, after having repeatedly rejected his wife’s entreaties, and he lived to discover that the good angel of his earlier days, had become a brighter and a better angel, as a consequence of being a Christian. We heard of hundreds of copies of the Scriptures being sold through the agency of M. Therrien, and sold to persons who were beginning to consider that if the Bible were a good book, it was remarkable that their Church should prohibit the purchase of it.

It appeared to the writer to be a great improvement on the ordinary practice, that no collection was made in connection with M. T.’s address.