

and was ceded to Britain in 1763, yet the Protestant Churches of the parent country neglected for fifty long years the spiritual interests of the French Canadians,—the Church of Rome, during these years, gaining many proselytes from English-speaking nominal Protestants who had settled in the colony.

The first French Protestant missionary was a Wesleyan, from Guernsey, who laboured among the French in several parts of the Province of Quebec from 1815 to 1821. During the next thirteen years nothing seems to have been done. The Grande Ligne Mission was established in 1834 and the French Canadian Missionary Society in 1839. This latter Society, while supported largely by Presbyterians, was non denominational. After an honourable record of over forty years it recently withdrew from the field because of the prosecution of the work of French Canadian Evangelization by the several branches of the Protestant Church in Canada. During the period of its existence it circulated upwards of 57,000 copies of God's Word and some 650,000 French tracts and religious publications. It established mission schools at Pointe-aux-Trembles as well as at other points in the Province. It formed, and for a time fostered, a number of mission congregations, and prosecuted the work of colportage with much vigour and success. To the efforts of this Society, under God, are largely owing the great changes that have taken place in the religious sentiments of the French-speaking people of the Province of Quebec during the last forty years. It may not be out of place here to mention the names of the Rev. Dr. Wilkes, Mr. James Court, and the late Rev. Dr. Taylor, of Montreal, to whom more than any other, under God, the Society owed its existence and its long career of usefulness. It is encouraging to state that, though the Society has now ceased operations, many of its life-long friends continue to take a deep interest in the work of French Canadian Evangelization, and are among the warmest supporters of the work of the Board. Not only are the Pointe aux Trembles schools, but also nearly all the congregations and most of the missionaries and colporteurs of the Society now in connection with the Presbyterian Board.

Prior to 1875 the several branches of the Presbyterian Church carried on separate French-Canadian missions. Since the union of the Churches in 1875 the work has made rapid strides, each succeeding year shewing marked progress.

The Board has three agencies—Colportage, Schools, and Preachers. A large number of testaments, and a neat little book—a Life of John the Baptist,—were circulated during the great festival of the 25th June. Circulation by colporteurs during the year: Bibles, Testaments, and Gospels, 6,150; Tracts, &c., 32,000. The Board has 12 mission schools, 18 teachers, 475 pupils. In all of these both French and English are taught, and special prominence is given to the religious training of the pupils. The schools at Joliette and St. Hyacinthe are self-supporting, and at Ste. Anne the salary of the Principal only is paid by the Board. Did the funds at the disposal of the Board admit of it, the number of these schools

could be multiplied tenfold, and their necessity no one at all acquainted with the state of the country, and the vast multitudes growing up in ignorance, can for a moment question. Many of the French Canadians are beginning to realize the importance of a good education, and would gladly send their children to such schools, if they were established in their district, even in spite of the ban of the priesthood and the threat of excommunication.

The vital importance of good schools was dwelt upon, Mr. WARDEN quoting the example of Dr. Duff in India.

Concerning the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools, it is stated that the school for boys can accommodate 150, and that for girls between 40 and 50. It is nine miles from Montreal. Upwards of 2,000 French Canadians have already been educated here. Many of these now occupy positions of trust and influence as ministers, teachers, physicians, lawyers, merchants, etc. Pupils are admitted between the ages of thirteen and twenty-five, the average age being about seventeen. A preference is given to the sons and daughters of French Roman Catholic parents and to the children of recent converts from Rome living in parishes where there is no Protestant school. The session begins in October each year, and continues for seven months. The pupils all reside in the buildings and thus enjoy the advantages of a Christian home, under the watchful nurture of earnest, devoted teachers. Upwards of 200 applied for admission last session, but only 102 could be admitted, on account of funds. Pupils contributed \$838. The cost per pupil is \$50.

The Board occupies 35 mission fields, three of which are new.

Mr. DOUBIET, writing of St. John's Church, Montreal, expresses himself as encouraged by the regular attendance of the congregation. Fewer church members have left the country this year, work being plenty. A very pleasant incident of our work has come to light this year, viz: the great revival of religion in Limanton (France), through one of our converts, a movement that has resulted, as readers of the *Record* already know, in the founding of two large Protestant congregations. Converts that have left Canada for France or the United States frequently write to me, always speaking with love and gratitude of their sojourn here and of their old pastor.

During the year a number of ex ecclesiastics of the Church of Rome sought counsel and protection from the Board. Several of these have already taken the decisive step and renounced their allegiance to the Church of Rome. Three of them attended the Presbyterian College, Montreal, last winter, one of whom is an ex-priest. A fourth studied during the latter part of last session at Pointe-aux-Trembles. Two others are anxious to obtain teaching or other secular work as a means of support, that they may at once sever their connection with Romanism.

Professor COUSSIRAT was inducted into his chair in October last. There are 17 French students in the College, Montreal. Professor C. is preparing religious literature for the people. Two