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FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

We append herewith a few extracts from the Report presented by the Board of French Evangelization to the Assembly last month:—

In presenting their Second Annual Report to the General Assembly, the Board of French Evangelization desire to record their deep gratitude to the Great King and head of the Church for the large measure of success which has accompanied the labors of the missionaries and colporteurs of the Board, and for the increased spirit of liberality manifested by our people in the support of this most important department of the Church's work during the past year. The rapid and encouraging growth of the work is seen in the fact that while the number of Missionaries reported last year as employed by the Board was 25, the number at present is 41.

The Rev. Rev. R. H. Warden was appointed Agent of the Board by last Assembly and entered upon his labors in September. Mr. A. B. Stewart ceased to act as treasurer in December, and Mr. Warden was installed as his successor. The Board, in view of the magnitude of the work and the necessities of the case, have opened an office for the secretary-treasurer at 210 St. James street, Montreal, where all letters should be addressed, and contributions for forwarded.

SYNOD DES EGLISES EVANGELIQUES.

For a time the French Canadian Missionary Society sought to foster and direct the formation of churches. Several years ago it abandoned this department of its operations, and the few churches under its care formed themselves into an independent Synod, under the name of the "Synod des Eglises Evangeliques." After struggling to maintain existence for three or four years, the attempt to establish and build up an independent French Protestant Church was found to be futile, and in April last the synod was dissolved. Its president, Rev. R. P. Duolos, is an applicant before the Assembly for admission to our church. All the congregations of the Synod, with one or two exceptions, have been taken under the care of the Board, thus considerably strengthening our work and at the same time adding largely to our future expenditure.

CHURCH BUILDING.

During the year three new churches have been built in connection with the Board—one in Quebec City at a cost of about \$8,000, chiefly provided by the friends in that city; one in Montreal, Cannon street, the total expense of which, including ground, was \$10,942.56; and one at Namur, in the township of Suffolk, which has been erected for the modest sum of \$448.54. In addition to these, temporary mission premises have been provided at Belle River, Ont., and Point Aux Bouleaux, Que., by the congregations in these fields, without expense to the Board. Two other churches are at present in course of erection by the Board, viz: at St. Paul de Chester and St. Antoine Abbe, Que., both of which it is hoped will be ready for occupation this fall.

REPORTS CONCERNING FIELDS.

In the Maritime Provinces there are four encouraging fields. From the reports as to those in the Western Section of the Church we select the following as a sample:—

POINTE AUX BOULEAUX AND PORT AU PERILL, QUEBEC.

This field has been occupied for several years by the Missionaries of the board. It is situated on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, near Tadoussac, in the Saguenay district, the two stations being about twenty-one miles apart. Pointe aux Bouleaux is a small village with a population of about 300, of whom about 35 are French Protestants. One difficulty heretofore experienced has been the want of a suitable building in which to conduct the day school and Sabbath services. This difficulty has now been overcome, the people having at their own expense provided a room and adapted it for the purpose. The Missionary of the Board, Mr. A. L. Guerin, reports an attendance of seventeen at the day school. He holds services in the forenoon of each Sabbath in a private house, and in the evening in the school room, the attendance being encouraging. During the latter part of the present summer he is to teach at Port au Perill, where there are twenty-five French Protestants. So desirous are the people to have their families educated at a Protestant mission school, that those in Pointe aux Bouleaux have arranged to send their children with the missionary to Port au Perill, as to the full benefit of his summer's work. Of the French speaking families there are 100 of Scotch descent. The interests of the early Scotch immigrants have been entirely neglected by the French Roman Catholics, and they have been indifferent, intermarried with the French Roman Catholics, and their children baptised in the Church of Rome. Since the establishment of our mission, a change has taken place, and under such good appears to have been made.

ST. ANTOINE ABBE, QUEBEC.

This is in the county of Arden, about thirty-six miles from Three Rivers, and is a comparatively new, and somewhat mountainous and rocky, the population in number, but are generally well educated. As stated in the report of last year, the Rev. Paul de Chester is worthy of note, and must always possess peculiar interest in the history of the Church, and the bitter persecution which missionaries and converts have there endured for the sake of the truth. The missionary who labored there last summer (that on reaching the field he found French Protestant families in the dis-

trict, all of whom had been brought to a knowledge of the truth by the missionaries of the Board who labored there the two previous summers. These converts were meekly suffering and long continued persecution at the hands of their Roman Catholic neighbors. Referring to the persecution of the handful who had renounced Romanism, the missionary thus writes "By order of the priests, their best friends ceased to speak to them, and became their enemies; merchants became tyrants, employers refused them work, neighbors damage their property, and the whole population united as one man, under the leadership of the priest, to persecute, shun and despise them as pariahs."

Mr. Crochet endeavored to reach the Roman Catholic population, but found them extremely hostile to him and his proposed work, and fully determined to oppose him by all means. Out of many houses he was violently turned. Yet, by the blessing of God on his persistent labors, and in no small measure, by the fidelity to the truth and patient bearing under persecution of the few Protestants, seven renounced Romanism during the summer, and joined the little mission band. Speaking of these, Mr. Crochet says:—"I wrote a letter of abjuration which they signed, and I took it in person to the priest, who turned me out of his house like a dog, on hearing that seven of his people had found the truth." The Lord has manifestly over-ruled the bitter persecution encountered, to the strengthening of the faith of the converts, and it is deeply interesting to learn that the son of one of these—a young man of marked ability and acknowledged piety—has resolved to consecrate his life to the service of the Master, in the work of the Gospel Ministry. Last year thirty copies of the Word of God and some sixty religious books were distributed throughout the district. The Sabbath service, as well as the mission day school, have heretofore been held in a private house. One of the converts recently deeded gratuitously to the Board a piece of ground, on which mission premises are being built. As will be seen from the financial statement, the sum of \$182 has already been obtained towards the erection of these, the total cost of which will be under \$600. In Danville and neighboring districts, promises of liberal assistance have been given by friends interested in the work of French Evangelization. The attendance at the day school this summer is fifteen. It is confidently believed that this number, as well as the Sabbath attendance, will be considerably increased when the mission premises are occupied.

DANVILLE, QUEBEC.

Here, for a few years past, our Presbyterian Church has had a struggling, yet spirited and energetic English congregation. The village is in the very heart of a large French Roman Catholic section of country. Situated on the line of the Grand Trunk Railway, it affords easy access to the surrounding district, and is an important centre for French Evangelization.

Realizing this, and knowing that the congregation had recently become vacant, the Board made overtures to the Presbytery of Quebec last winter, with a view to having it supplied by a missionary speaking both French and English. The Presbytery, as well as the English-speaking congregation heartily entered into the proposal, the more so from the fact that the English-speaking Protestants are gradually decreasing in numbers by emigration, etc., and in April last, one of the graduating French students of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, began operations in the field. The experiment has thus far been a gratifying success, and the congregation contemplate calling the missionary, Mr. M. F. Boudreau, as he is licensed this summer.

Mr. Boudreau conducts the regular English services at Danville in the morning, and at Kingsey Falls in the afternoon; and in the evening of each Sabbath holds a French service in Danville. This service is growing in attendance and in interest, the average number present during the month of May being about forty, many of whom are Roman Catholics, there being only four French Protestant families in the village and immediate vicinity. Already Mr. Boudreau can tell of twelve or fifteen heads of families in the neighborhood of Danville, whose faith in the teachings of the Church of Rome has been shaken. In a recent letter he specifies several individual cases, of which the following are instances:—"A young man by the name of _____, came to converse with me last week. He told me that he was a Protestant at heart, but that he does not like to give in his resignation to the priest, as his wife rages like a maniac. She watches him so closely that he cannot always attend our meetings, and occasionally keeps away from them for the sake of peace." "A very intelligent Roman Catholic, near the village, has recently become a Protestant, and the priest has offered to buy his farm and pay him a large sum of money for it, if he will leave the district entirely."

ST. HYACINTHE, QUEBEC.

This city, the capital of the county of the same name, with a population of 4,000, is one of the most prosperous in the Province. It is the most important station on the Grand Trunk Railway between Montreal and Quebec. Here the Church of Rome is numerically strong. What with its Cathedral and Bishops' Palace, its two nunneries—one of which was completed last year at a cost of nearly \$125,000—its Seminary or College for young men, with its twelve professors, and nearly 250 resident students—it exercises great influence in the community. In 1868, the Rev. R. P. Duolos began to labor here in connection with the French Canadian Missionary Society, there being then only one French Protestant in the place. By the blessing of God upon his labors there is now a regularly organized congregation

in St. Hyacinthe, with a session, staff of Sabbath School teachers, and a Communion roll containing the names of upwards of forty members. Of the twenty-nine families connected with the congregation, four are English speaking, for whose benefit a service is held in English every alternate Sabbath. With indomitable energy and perseverance Mr. Duolos, a few years ago, established in the town a French Protestant Ladies' College, which has met with encouraging success, there being at present in connection with it thirty lady boarders from distant parts of the Dominion and the United States. The College building, a substantial and commodious brick structure, occupies a prominent site, and has accommodation for 50 boarders, besides classrooms, etc. In connection with it is a chapel, 30x40, where the Sabbath services are held. The average attendance at these is 50 in the morning and 70 in the evening, exclusive of the lady pupils attending the College, who swell the numbers to about 100. The families connected with the congregation occupy a good social position, and enjoy the respect of the entire community. About the time of the dissolution of the "Synod des Eglises Evangeliques," to which reference is made elsewhere in this report, Rev. Mr. Duolos, who was President of the Synod, appeared before the Presbytery of Montreal and applied to be received as a minister of our Church. That application is now before the General Assembly. The congregation, of which he is pastor, having also resolved to seek admission to our Church, is now under the care of the Board. Mr. Duolos holds occasional services at Riviere Noir, twelve miles distant from St. Hyacinthe, where there are a few French Protestants—the nucleus of what, it is hoped, will soon become a large and prosperous congregation. Mr. Duolos is the only Protestant Minister residing in St. Hyacinthe.

JOLIETTE, QUEBEC.

This is a flourishing town of 8,500 inhabitants, the capital of Joliette County, about forty-five miles north-east of Montreal. The town itself is twelve miles distant from the St. Lawrence, with a harbor on which—Lanoraie—is connected by rail. The French congregation here, as in St. Hyacinthe, was under the jurisdiction of the "Synod des Eglises Evangeliques." Their pastor has recently accepted a call to the United States, and the congregation has resolved to unite with our Church. Towards the satisfactory accomplishment of this object, negotiations are at present being carried on. There is here a church edifice—the property of the people—in which a mission day school is conducted, and the Sabbath services held. It is the only Protestant place of worship in the town. Joliette being the business centre of thirty French parishes, scattered throughout which are a few Protestants, it forms a good base for missionary operations. The services of a suitable missionary are at the disposal of the Board for this field, as soon as the congregation has been received into the Church. (Since the meeting of Assembly, this congregation has been received by the Board, and the Rev. L. Dionne appointed to labor among them.)

GRENVILLE, QUEBEC.

In the village of Grenville, on the Quebec side of the Ottawa river, our Church has long had an English congregation, which, united with Chatham, forms a pastoral charge. The French Mission is in the township of Grenville, distant from the village about three miles. This mission was for several years under the French Canadian Missionary Society, but more lately in connection with the "Synod des Eglises Evangeliques."

On the dissolution of that Synod the congregation petitioned the Board to be taken under their care. In response to their petition, Mr. R. Hamilton was appointed to labor as missionary among them. Mr. Hamilton is one of last session's graduating class of the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

It is worthy of remark that Mr. Hamilton, who speaks French well, threw up a lucrative situation in Montreal a few years ago to enter upon a course of study for the work of the ministry, with a view to French Evangelization. He is the first English graduate of the Montreal College who has devoted himself to French work, and his self-denial is worthy of all commendation. He began his labors in Grenville in the end of April. He reports 16 French Protestant families in the settlement, 11 of whom live on adjoining farms. These families number 100 members, 50 of whom are under 17 years of age. He has instituted a Sabbath School and Bible Class, the attendance at both of which, as well as at the regular Lord's Day services, is encouraging. While nearly all the families left the Church of Rome in a body several years ago, not one of the original Protestants has gone back to Romanism. Four or five of the young people who have married and gone to other districts have been instrumental in leading some of their Roman Catholic neighbors to the truth. From Mr. Hamilton's last letter the following extract is taken:—"The people are extremely fond of singing hymns, and frequently their Roman Catholic neighbors join them in singing. Hymns are readily learned and easily retained, and by means of them much truth may be conveyed. We have Thursday evening reunions from house to house for reading and exposition, singing and prayer. In addition to this I make frequent visits, which are taken up largely with reading and prayer. This is easily accomplished, as all the families are within a radius of two miles of the house where I stay. The eagerness of all for Gospel instruction is really encouraging. All my services as yet have been attended by some Roman Catholics, whether through curiosity or not I have been unable to ascertain, and in the few Roman Catholic houses where I have been I have been well received, though well known." Mr. Hamilton thus writes of the temporal condition of the people:—"Their

farms are very poor as well as small, generally 25 acres each. They mostly come to church in their working clothes, though clean, frequently without coats, and the boys almost invariably come to Sunday School with nothing on but shirt, trousers and hat. And I don't think any groceries, unless it be salt, are bought by any of the families, except where I live, some oatmeal has been bought since my advent. I have given these items to show that the people are extremely poor, though not, I think, necessarily uncomfortable. I hear of two little French Protestant communities back in the country, that are beginning to relapse through neglect. They have not had a missionary among them, or only very occasionally, for years. The people among whom I labor have a firm, strong hold on the Gospel, and their children, numbering 70 or 80, young and old, will know nothing of Romanism at all."

NAMUR, QUEBEC.

On the 15th of May, 1876, three French Protestant families from Montreal, recent converts of Mr. Chiquay's, accompanied by a devoted missionary of the Board—Mr. G. C. Mousseau—arrived at Namur, in the Township of Suffolk, a township lately opened for settlement, about 25 miles to the north west of Grenville. They found but ten other families in the settlement, all of whom were French Catholics. These were regularly visited by the priest, who came to celebrate mass monthly.

At the end of the first month after Mr. Mousseau's arrival three of these families renounced Romanism. At the end of the second month the priest ceased his visits, only two of the ten families being able to hold out against the truth.

Through the columns of the French press Mr. Mousseau made known the existence of the colony, and the terms on which land could be obtained from the Government, and invited French Protestants to join the little band already there. In response to his invitation a large number settled in Namur last fall, and Mr. Mousseau now ministers to thirty-one families, besides seven single men, who have taken up land in the district. In addition to these many Roman Catholics have located there, concerning whom Mr. Mousseau thus writes:—"Their houses are all open to me, every one. I am welcome in every house, and with the exception of three houses I am everywhere permitted to talk on religious matters and read the Gospel. I expect that they will all join our mission soon." The people went into the district poor, and like all new settlers have had many difficulties to contend with, but their trials have been sweetened by the freedom from persecution, and by the religious privileges enjoyed by them in their new homes. To secure a suitable place in which to conduct the day school and hold the Sabbath services, the Board commissioned Mr. Mousseau to visit Ottawa, and a few of the congregations in Glangarry. He met with gratifying success in his canvass, as the accompanying financial statement shows, and with great satisfaction the Board report the erection of commodious mission premises at Namur, in which the people now regularly gather for public worship, and in which the day school is held. To complete the building only about \$100 additional to the sum collected by the missionary will be required. Mr. Mousseau himself took up 100 acres of land, ten of which he has generously deeded to the Board, and on this site the mission premises have been built. The field promises well; upwards of 80 French Protestant families are expected to settle there this fall; the soil is good, and it is confidently hoped that before the lapse of many years there will be a large and self-sustaining congregation there in connection with our Church.

RIVER DESERT AND SIX PORTAGES, QUEBEC.

This field is situated about 90 miles direct north of the City of Ottawa. In the fall of last year the Rev. T. Brouillette was appointed to it, his salary being drawn in part from the funds of the Lumberman's Mission, the Home Mission, and this Board.

The field extends along the Gatineau River over a rough tract of country of about fifty miles in length by eight in breadth. There are three regular preaching stations, one of which is in a French settlement three miles from Six Portages. Here Mr. Brouillette preaches in French every Sabbath evening. The number of French Protestants is as yet very small, but the services are attended by several Roman Catholics, who listen attentively to the Word of Life, and already with good results. Mr. Brouillette reports one man, named _____, who has left the Church of Rome and accepted the teaching of the Bible. "Two families," he writes, "have given such unmistakable evidence of the change God's Word has operated in their minds and hearts, that I sincerely believe they will soon be numbered among the trophies of the Gospel." Mr. Brouillette spent eight weeks during the year among the lumbermen. In that time he visited 21 shanties, and 22 farms and depots, representing between six and seven hundred men, at least 500 of whom were French Canadians.

Besides preaching 80 times, he distributed 5 Bibles, 11 New Testaments, and about fifty lbs. weight of religious tracts. May the seed thus scattered yield an abundant harvest.

GLANGARRY, ETC., ONTARIO.

Mr. W. Mullins, one of the most successful and energetic laborers under the Board, has been engaged during the whole year in Colportage. The summer of 1876 was spent in the Coteauquay district, Quebec, and the remaining part of the year in the Counties of Glangarry, Russell and Stormont, Ontario. Mr. Mullins has been most assiduous in his labors, as his journals amply testify. He possesses great facility in gaining access to Roman Catholic houses and Roman Catholic hearts, and has dropped many a good seed, which, watered by the prayers of God's people, will yet germ-

inate and bear fruit. His reports abound with interesting narratives of interviews held with French Romanists. He has met with not a few French Protestants in these eastern counties of Ontario. In one settlement—Haykesbury—a group of nine or ten families are clustered together, to whom the Board intended sending a missionary this summer, as also to another field in the vicinity of Martintown, but the demands upon them for laborers to other, and in the meantime, more destitute fields, were such that they were unable to carry out their purpose. They, however, appointed another colporteur, Mr. G. H. Allard, to assist Mr. Mullins in his arduous work.

DRYSDALE AND GRAND BOND, HURON COUNTY, ONTARIO.

This field has for the past few years been supplied by the Board, in conjunction with the Presbytery of Huron, by means of a Missionary who ministered to both the English and French people.

The Presbytery desiring to have the undivided services of a Missionary for the English congregation, the work has this summer been divided, and the Missionary of the Board, Mr. S. Carriere, gives his whole time to the French section. At Grand Bond there are twenty-six French Protestant families, many of whom were driven by priestly persecution from the Province of Quebec twenty years ago, on account of their attachment to Protestant principles. Though these do not all profess attachment to our Church they regularly attend the services of our missionary—the only French section in the two years in the district. At Drysdale, ten miles distant, there are ten French Protestant families, besides a large number of French Catholics who are of the whole favorably disposed. Here we have a neat, comfortable church edifice, where last summer the attendance on Sabbath reached as high as one hundred and fifty. The Missionary in the field then, M. O. E. Amarou, says: "On Sabbath evenings the houses were deserted—men, women and children, old and young, were at church. The question was not, 'Who will go to church?' but rather, 'Who will stay to keep the house?'" The Missionary this summer holds services in both stations every Lord's Day, besides conducting a Sabbath School and a week evening prayer meeting, and thus far has been well received by the people and met with encouraging success.

(To be continued.)

New Knox Church, Harriston, Ont.

The afternoon of Friday, the 29th day of June, 1877, was fully occupied by the congregation of Knox Church along with their friends in witnessing the interesting and pleasing ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new edifice which is going to be a very handsome structure, designed by Mr. Leith, Architect, Hamilton. The ceremony took place at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. After prayer, and reading the scriptures, Mr. John Copland, Secretary for the congregation, read the scroll, giving a brief history of the church from the year 1858 up to the present time, which he deposited along with other documents, papers, coins, etc., beneath the corner stone. The Rev. H. Crozier, of Holstein, performed the ceremony in a very appropriate and solemn manner, after which Mr. John McConachie, Elder, presented the rev. gentleman with the silver trowel. Impressive addresses were delivered by the pastor of the congregation, the Rev. John Munro McIntyre, Revs. Mr. Baikie, Guthrie church, Mr. D. Fraser, Mount Forest, Mr. D. Cameron, Palmerston. In the evening a social was held in the Town Hall in aid of the building fund, which was in every particular a success, the sum realized from the collection and social being something over \$200. The ladies of the congregation who had the management of the social deserve the highest commendation for the magnificent display and perfect order with which they entertained the friends of the cause. During the evening the company (numbering between 500 and 600 persons) enjoyed one of the most intellectual feasts that the people of Harriston ever had the pleasure of listening to, the speakers being very eloquent. Speeches were delivered by the rev. gentlemen who took part at the ceremony, also Rev. Mr. Gundy, Methodist Minister, and Rev. Joshua Fraser, Presbyterian. Choice selections of sacred music being interspersed during the evening, under the leadership of Mr. James Outram, added greatly to the enjoyment. The corner stone was presented to the congregation by Mr. John Kelly, Marble Dealer, Harriston, late of Hamilton, and formerly of London. Mr. Robt. Lickwood accepted the gift in the name of the congregation and replied in very appropriate terms. The ladies of the congregation having formed themselves into an aid society, held a Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival on Monday, the 2nd July, at the Town Hall, in aid of the new building—the farmers coming to their assistance in a most generous and praiseworthy manner with their pailfuls of cream and baskets of cakes. In fact the supply was unlimited. The nice sum of about seventy dollars was taken during the day.

The St. Mary's Argus says:—"The many friends of Rev. Dr. Waters, late of St. Mary's, will regret to learn that while he was attending the General Assembly at Halifax, the other week, his church and manse were destroyed by the great fire in St. John. Some of his personal effects were rescued, but his loss notwithstanding was very heavy. On Friday last the residence of Dr. Waters' father in the township of West Williams, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. He has our sincere sympathy in his heavy troubles."