

age in the valley, and the people are very anxious to have a school opened.

On Wednesday we had a drive of only twelve miles. The hills over which the road passes from the Grand lac mission to Namur are both high and steep, and in several places it was necessary to alight and walk up in order to ease the horse. In the absence of Mr. Favier we were kindly received by his wife and daughter. The meeting here was held in the afternoon, and there were probably sixty persons present, most of whom were women and children. The men were away at work on the Canada Pacific Railway. The building in which we met was put up some years ago and is now somewhat out of repair. It is a well built and substantial two story house. The lower story is fitted up as a dwelling house for the preacher or teacher, and the upper story, to which access is had by an outside uncovered stairway, is used for school and church. A very small outlay would keep the building in good order. The people are unwilling to spend anything on it owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the holding. They are strongly of opinion that we will never get a title. So long as there is doubt as to the ownership of the land one cannot advise any further expenditure. Here we were met by a deputation from Lac Des Sables composed of eight heads of families, who earnestly besought us to do something to assist them to get a school house and teacher. The people at Lac Des Sable are seven miles from the school in Namur. They have no school-house and cannot get themselves recognized as a school section until they have a house and an organized school. In this settlement, at Lac Des Sable, there are at the present moment thirteen children of school age, as near as can be estimated. The members of the deputation were informed that their case would be reported to the Presbytery, though where, or how, the Presbytery could get money to help them we did not know. They undertook to send forward a petition stating their wants and giving other necessary information. The school at Namur, in charge of Mr. Fluhman seems in good order and well attended during the cold weather. In the month of July, however, the attendance was very small, and it seemed as though it would have been good policy to have had the school closed for a month or six weeks in the very warm weather, especially as all the children of sufficient age to be engaged at home were actively engaged in haying or harvesting. Next day, having taken leave of Mr. A. B. Clements, who is doing a good work, and also of our kind hostess and family, we drove forty miles, and reached Montebello a little before six o'clock. After tea at Mr. Campbell's, the home of our excellent missionary, Mr. S. Rondeau, we went to the church, or rather to the little hall

in which service is held, and there had the usual service. The hall was filled to its utmost, and the people present expressed great satisfaction at meeting with the deputation from the Presbytery.

Next morning, accompanied by Mr. Rondeau, we visited nearly all the Protestant families in the village, and were much gratified to see the lively interest taken in the work of French evangelization by everyone with whom we conversed. Though only recently started, we have now in Montebello a really promising station. There is no other Protestant service in the place, or within several miles, and the people look to us to give them a supply of religious ordinances. There is no Protestant school in the village, and all the educational facilities within reach are provided by the nuns. It seemed to the Presbytery's deputation that something should be done at once to establish a Protestant school, but we had not time to consult with the people to ascertain their views on the subject. In addition to the preaching of the word, the great and crying necessity of the people in all these stations is to have schools in which their children may at least be taught to read and write. In the midst of a dense Roman Catholic population, with which they are closely identified by social and family ties, they must be educated or they will gradually but surely fall back again, and our labour and expense be worse than thrown away. There are none so hard to reach as those who, with us for a short time, have left us to renew their allegiance to Rome, and there is no hindrance so difficult to overcome as that created by the recollection of a work begun with much earnestness, and amid many signs of promise, but ended in shameful failure. The door is to all appearances open now. We ought to go in and take possession in the name of Christ. But if we do, let us remember what such an advance means. It means much expense through many years. It means labour persevered in the face of great difficulties. It means labour persevered in in spite of many a painful disappointment. In it we must spend and be spent. We must be content to do the work for the glory of the Redeemer, and leave the result in His hands. There is need that we count the cost. But thank God there is no reason for despair. It is God's own work, and if we go forward in the right spirit, and in His strength, He will glorify Himself.—WM. MOORE, *Convenier*.

Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 10, 1883.

THE DANGER OF DOUBT.—The malady of our times is uncertainty concerning religious truth. The danger to spiritual life from this uncertainty is as much to be feared as from the attacks of atheism. Ships are oftener wrecked in the fog than in the tempest.