

MOTTO
FOR THE YEAR"WORKERS
TOGETHER
WITH HIM."

W. B. M. U.

THE
MARITIME
PROVINCES

Prayer Topic for June: For Palkonda, that blessing may be given, and the little Church greatly prospered. For our Associations, that great blessing may attend these gatherings and new interest and zeal be awakened in all our Churches.

MISSION WORK AMONG THE FRENCH IN NOVA SCOTIA.

THE FRENCH antedated the English in Nova Scotia. Whether we visit the ruins of Port Royal or Louisburg, or gaze across the broad marshes and rich meadows of Tantramar or Grand Pre, we behold the enduring evidence of their early occupation and thrifty vigor. And the French are still with us, and likely to be. With them they brought the Catholicism. And while in their motherland the church has lost much of its ancient prestige (among the sons and daughters of France in their New World "dispersion") she has seemed to retain in full the reverence and submission demanded. There are thousands of these French Catholics in Nova Scotia to-day, the greater part of them being in portions of Richmond, Digby, and Yarmouth Counties. They are not intermingled with the thousands of British extraction, but hold their sections almost exclusively. Here we come at once upon the buttress of the Church. In this compact village, bound together by the cords of a common lineage, common interests, common faith, jealously shepherded by priests and nuns, the Gospel teacher is apt to be reminded that "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." But when the families become separated from each other, and find themselves surrounded by Protestant families, they observed for themselves the character and life of their neighbors, often become convinced that such life cannot rest upon an altogether bad creed, and end up in a more liberal spiritual view, or even in a desire to investigate for themselves, and often in embracing the Evangelical Faith. Thus there are many Evangelical Churches in the vicinity of French communities that have French Acadian members. While these people remain at home in their cramped up villages it is quite difficult to obtain access to them.

What they need is a mental quickening, and then they will become impatient of their spiritual bonds. The fact is as lamentable as it is undeniable, that the greater part of our French population is far behind their British fellow citizens in education and general knowledge of affairs. The public school is a missionary agency.

A fair estimate of the attempts made and work accomplished will certainly reinforce our sense of duty to do all within our power both directly and indirectly to give the Gospel to these people.

Several noble men have labored in this mission; among them, Rev. Obed Chute, a man of rare gifts, formerly pastor of the First Church, Halifax, father of Rev. A. A. Chute, D.D., now of Acadia University. He had to return from the work on account of failing health. Rev. M. Normandy, carried on the work for many years, and gathered a small church. Others have entered into their labors. A mission was began with headquarters at Tusket, Yarmouth County, but the solid front of opposition presented, and a division of counsel among supporters, led to its abandonment. Then work was undertaken in Digby County, and there our faithful Brother, Rev. C. W. Grenier and his good wife are now spending themselves for Christ.

What has been accomplished? Not a great deal in the way of building up a strong church. One weak church exists in connection with the mission. But are the score of souls now gathered in the Church all the visible results of the mission? A goodly number of the converts have joined the Church triumphant. Many have obtained light who have not been able to seal their discipleship by baptism. Others upon renouncing Rome have been subjected to so much persecution that they have removed from the place. Thus it is easily seen that the present membership represents only a portion of those who have been led into the new life. Many copies of the Scriptures have been put