

the world their attention had been recently directed by letters from Christian brethren resident there. It is proper to observe, however, that the "Canada" to which they looked was "Canada West," and the Indian population of that country, to many of whom the French language was almost as familiar as their own.

At first their intention was to establish a mission in the Mauritius, where there was a French population of 70,000; or in South Africa, where French missionaries had been successfully engaged for some years, and were now calling for more laborers. But the representations of brethren in that country turned the scale in favor of Canada, where missionary operations among the Indians had met with encouraging results. A meeting was held to commend the missionaries to God, and ask His blessing on the enterprise. It was numerously attended by friends from neighboring towns and villages, as well as by the members of the church, and was a season of unusual excitement and deep feeling.

ARRIVAL IN CANADA.

A letter from M. Olivier to the Committee at Lausanne contains the following statements:—

"As soon as I reached Montreal I called on the Rev. Mr. Perkins (Minister of the American Presbyterian Church), to whom I had a letter of introduction from Dr. Cox. He received me as if I had been a long-known brother. He had heard of our arrival by means of a New York journal which had given an account of us, and had expected to see me. He would not consent to our continuing at the hotel, but insisted on our acceptance of hospitality from himself and friends till we should be able to form plans for the future.

"The weather was so fine when we arrived that I thought it would be proper that our young brethren Gavin and Dentan should proceed at once on their journey to Upper Canada. But after advising with our Montreal friends, who urged on our consideration the lateness of the season and the approaching close of the navigation, it was resolved that our brethren should spend the winter in Montreal, and employ themselves in learning English. I have also decided to remain here for the present, that I may personally see the state of things. Doors appear to be opening in several places for the preaching of the cross of Christ, and it seems that the time is come for a great work in this country. One of the ministers said to me yesterday that in his church prayer had been continually offered to the Lord that He would send laborers to Lower Canada, and that when he heard of our arrival he was greatly rejoiced because those prayers appeared to be answered."

Madame Olivier wrote thus to Madame Feller:—

"In one sense, America shows us nothing new. Men are everywhere the same, slaves to their passions, thinking of nothing but their own interests. Here, as well as in the Old World, there are many who imagine that the evils which prevail in society can be removed in

no other way than by revolutionary changes. Even in the United States, which present to us the type of all kinds of liberty, and where free institutions of every description abound, there is, as well as amongst ourselves, restlessness and discontent.

"But it is time that I should tell you about Montreal. Our residence here would be more agreeable if we were better acquainted with the English language. Within the last dozen years the English have acquired great influence in this city. Many congregations have been formed, and many chapels built. We have been greatly encouraged and strengthened by the good spirit which appears to prevail among Christians. Soon after our arrival, Mr. Perkins invited other ministers of different denominations to consider with him what was best to be done for the Swiss missionaries. Their unanimous advice was that we should settle at Montreal. All the congregations take deep interest in the work of evangelization among the French. Chapels are offered my husband, in which he may preach in their language. It is believed that there will be a good number of hearers, if it were only for the uncommonness of the thing. A French Protestant minister has never yet been seen here.

"We do not find ourselves, therefore, in the midst of savages. We are in a city of 30,000 souls, which presents singular contrasts to Swiss eyes, but which is, nevertheless, a civilized place, and in many parts very beautiful. But if you take a nearer view of it—if you listen to the talk of that part of the population which inhabits the suburbs, which is the field that my husband intends to endeavor to cultivate, you would understand that men who are only naturally ignorant differ much from those people whose ignorance is nurtured by the priests, and which binds them as with a tight cord. They seem to me to be sadly hardened, very sensual, and their ignorance is of the most repulsive kind. They are addicted to the use of spirituous liquors, which brutalize men much more than wine. If I look at this work irrespectively of Divine grace, I exclaim, 'It is impossible.' But Faith replies, 'With God all things are possible,' and enables us to wait in peace for the day of His power."

Soon after his arrival M. Olivier commenced French meetings, at which about thirty Canadians were generally present. English friends who had Canadians in their service encouraged their attendance, and often accompanied them to the meetings, so that sometimes the congregations were numerous. M. Olivier did not labor in vain. His discourses, as one of his hearers remarked, were rather "proclamations of the love of God in Jesus Christ," than preachings. The good effects soon appeared. A householder, with one of his nephews, and an old man, seventy years of age, who had passed through great struggles, within and without, declared themselves openly for the truth.

M. Olivier neglected no opportunity of making known the Saviour. Persons who were interested in the meetings visited him, and often took with them their relations and acquaintances, with whom he conversed, sometimes in the presence