

Mr. E. J. Stobo, jr., read a paper on "French Colportage," giving some idea of the territory and work of the Quebec Auxiliary Bible Society. Numerous incidents connected with the work were related. Our hearts were drawn out as never before to that part of Quebec where the blackness of Romanism is more dense, and we were impressed more forcibly with the responsibility resting upon us as a denomination so carry the Gospel to those "who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death." Five minute reports from our missions at New Toronto, Little York, Woodbine and Pape Ave. were received, showing the work at all the stations to be encouraging. Dr. Goodspeed was appointed to interview the Home Mission Board in reference to the support of student missionaries for the summer at these points. At the afternoon session Dr. Goodspeed presided, and after devotional exercises read a letter from Bro. Burwash, giving an account of the work at present going on at Maskinongè. He addressed the meeting on the subject of "Christian Education," pointing out the immense power institutions of learning possess for moulding the thoughts and moral and religious life of the nation. Referring to the temptations to which students are especially subjected, he showed how they might be met. Several of the Professors followed, and after a season of prayer the Doxology brought to a close a gathering of much spiritual power and interest.

**THE LECTURE ON PETROLEUM.**—One evening this month, we had the pleasure of listening to a lecture on petroleum, delivered by Mr. A. E. de St. Dalmas; who, having been at one time a resident of Petrolea became greatly interested in the oil wells and their working.

The lecturer had many small models of the instruments used in making the bore, thus giving a clear idea of the whole process. He reminded us of the immense size of some of these instruments used for the work. The oil is formed in Petrolea at a depth of about 475 feet, 90 feet of which is clay, then the rock is reached. All sorts of ingenious tools have been made (such as dogs and fishing lines). We were warned, however, not to try this kind of fishing line in a stream as it would be useless, the fish would not bite. The lecturer showed specimens of the oil as it is first obtained; described the various processes of refinement, and told of the vapors it gives off and the substances left behind in the still. Some of the things derived from petroleum are gas, benzine, coke, wax, of which candles are made, etc. When the oil first goes into the still, it is very black and dirty, but when it is refined and ready for the market, it is white and pure and quite inviting, that is, at a distance, for distance certainly lends enchantment to the odor.

After the lecture, we were allowed to question the speaker, and to examine the specimens of vaseline, coke, soap, etc. The young ladies made free use of both privileges. After having heard such an able discourse on this subject, we shall be more interested in petroleum, to which we are indebted for so many of our modern conveniences.

It is to be hoped that when the lecturer reached home, he missed none of his candles. We noticed several of the young ladies casting longing, lingering glances at them, doubtless thinking of what an acquisition they would be to a midnight feast.