

owning, at least, one shanty—carry on lumber operations in its valley. A necessity of making a selection among them was, therefore, forced upon me, and out of the many, the shanties of Messrs. Gilmour & Co., Hamilton Brothers, W. & J. Welch, and McLaren & Co., were chosen; from them a further selection was made in respect to actual visitation, but, thanks to your liberal allowance of periodicals and tracts, I was able to supply all their shanties with reading matter. The districts visited were four in number, viz., the Pennechonge, the Joseph, the Ignace, and the line of the main river, and in these districts I visited nine shanties, eleven depots, besides several stopping places.

"In the shanties I generally read portions of Scripture in English and French, and afterwards addressed the men in both languages. Usually the services were concluded with prayer in English; sometimes the prayer was repeated in French; in all cases the strictest decorum was preserved. At the depots the services took the form of family worship, while at the stopping shanties they were of a still less formal character.

"The tracts and periodicals are eagerly perused, especially those with attractive plates. It was pleasing to watch the French Canadians grouped in different parts of the shanty, each little company listening intently to one of their number who read aloud. The pleasure with which they listen to the Scriptures, too, is very marked. On one occasion I was particularly struck with the interest manifested. While reading to one of the men from the Gospels I was frequently interrupted by his exclaiming 'Mais! que c'est un beau livre' (My! but that's a fine book). Later on I spoke of his being tired, but he replied that he 'could sit up all night listening to such a book as that.'

"While sensible of the importance of ministerial visitation, and of the results likely to flow from it, I cannot but feel that the greatest power of your Mission lies in the religious literature which you supply to the shanties. The literature is not discarded after a day or two, but, even when the novelty has worn off, many continue reading, and especially on the Sabbath-day, when the ordinary shantyman hardly knows what to do with himself, the package of papers is largely drawn upon. During my stay in a shanty I never solicited subscriptions, and always refused to take any money that was offered to me, simply because the Roman Catholics in the shanties often say that if it were not for the money collected they would never receive a visit from their clergy. To take away the least ground for a similar charge against your Mission I declined all offers of subscriptions.

"During the course of my journey I met four clergymen of the Anglican Church, sent out by the Bishop of Montreal on the same work as that in which I was engaged. Several shanties were visited by them and me with an interval of only a day or two between our respective visits. The suggestion of one of your Missionaries last year to the effect that a central committee of the various Evangelical Churches should be appointed, if possible of realization, would prevent all seeming waste of labour, and be productive of other benefits."

While your Committee feel thankful that the results stated in these reports have been accomplished by the Clergymen who engaged in the work of the Mission during the past season, they keep always in mind the desirability of securing, if possible, the services of one or more missionaries, whose special ministerial work will be to labour among the shanties. Owing, however, to the scarcity of labourers in the settled congregations and mission stations of the Church their hope in this respect has not yet been realized. Feeling deeply the inadequacy of the ministerial supply at their command to meet the wants of the