

A Striking Contrast. The following incident related by Mr. Beauchamp, missionary, illustrates the striking contrast that has taken place in the attitude of the French Canadians towards those who are seeking to give them the Gospel. Now they are received gladly and treated respectfully. It was different some years ago, when in one instance a certain colporteur had been declared against by the village priest, and charged with having a cloven hoof. The man in whose house he was, actually believed this until the colporteur took off his boots and stockings, and showed his feet to the assembled family. So incensed was the man at being deceived by the priest, that he soon afterwards left the church and became a convert to Protestantism.

French Work in Ontario. Mr. E. D. Pelletier has been appointed to French Mission works in Algoma, half his support to be paid by the Home Mission Fund in consideration of the Home work that he is doing, the other half by the French Board. Mr. Pelletier writes: "I have gone over the ground as fully as possible at Chelmsford and Cartier, I have visited the families, held meetings, and made arrangements for both French and English work during the winter. At Chelmsford we have quite a group of French people who are Protestants. You can hardly imagine with what joy I was welcomed by them. I intend to try and get a school for them. The Roman Catholic School as it is gets all the taxes. We have no church of any kind in this place as yet."

One Aim in French Work. On every hand there are tokens of a reaction against the assumed authority of the clergy in the Church of Rome. People are claiming the right to think for themselves in some things, such as the right to a voice in the expenditure of the money which they give for church purposes, the right to a share in the management of the schools, the right, in short, which Protestantism everywhere claims and grants. The Church on the other hand seeks to be supreme in all matters temporal and spiritual. In old France the result of a wide spread breaking away from clericalism is almost equally widespread atheism and infidelity, and one work before our Church now is to seek to guide aright the awakening thought and life of this new France that the results may not be as in the old world. The revolt from the domination of priestly authority is inevitable. It must come. Where men think they must assert their manhood and its rights. Yea the revolt has come, in ways that would not have been dreamed of twenty years ago. Parishioners have contested their rights with their priests before the courts and have won. Catholic newspapers have boldly declared the rights of the people and declaimed against wrong when done by the

clergy. They have been placed under the ban by the Bishop of Montreal and instead of yielding they have prosecuted him for libel before the courts. Knowledge, the pure gospel, the Bible, distributed now when minds are open to inquiry will be far more effective than when indifference and infidelity have set in.

Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools. These well known schools are this session filled to overflowing. The Principal reports that "every bed is occupied" and the work progresses satisfactorily. On Sabbath, Dec. 17th, the Lord's Supper was observed, thirteen partaking for the first time, and about sixty altogether.

Parents have opposition in sending their children. If the older children of a family are sent, the priest will refuse communion to the younger ones and they will be looked upon as the outcasts of the parish. The Principal writes:—

"In spite of all these difficulties our schools have carried on their noble work of rescue, and every session has seen many a young soul brought from darkness to light through faith in Jesus. Our schools have sent messengers of the Gospel to every locality of this Province, and to their influence and faithful work is in large measure due the great change which has taken place in the disposition of the French Canadians.

Our pupils are divided into five classes. The class of the beginners is the most numerous, and is composed of very different elements. Pupils who are over twenty years of age learn their letters with boys of twelve. The higher class is far less numerous, and it is formed of young men who are preparing themselves for college or university.

The classes are taught from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with two and a half hour's recreation. The rest of the time is spent in study and housework. Every day's work is opened and closed with family prayer, and every morning the Bible is taught to all the classes from nine to ten. On Sabbath we have regular services as well as a Sunday-school, and the pupils hold a prayer meeting among themselves, which is well attended.

Everything is working harmoniously, and we feel that the Lord is with us and that the Holy Spirit is doing His blessed work in many a young soul that has been enlightened by the Gospel."

The large attendance of pupils this session entails largely increased expenditure, but the Church has never yet failed to provide the funds necessary to carry on the work, and the simple statement of the needs of the schools will stimulate very many to help in their maintenance. *Pointe-aux-Trembles* is a household word throughout the Church. The mission schools there have been greatly honored of God in the past and the present session gives promise of results exceeding those of any preceding year.