

them, comforted and protected them. The following incident will suffice to give an idea of the superstition which then prevailed. It is taken from the report of one of the missionaries, dated 16th December, 1840:

“To-day I visited a person to whom we had lent a Bible. Fifty persons assembled. . . . I endeavored to address them seriously on the danger in which they were if they died unconverted. It was of no avail; but what astonished me most was that they kept always looking at my feet. Finally a woman said that their priest had told them that in the latter days false prophets would come and that we were such; that we were malignant spirits escaped from the bottom of hell and come to destroy their souls. ‘But, my dear hearers,’ said he, ‘would you know them, then, when they visit you, ask them to uncover their left foot and they will be found cloven like those of a cow or sheep. Those, however, who have not their feet cloven, are good people and you can listen to them.’ After this reply, says the missionary, I took off my shoe and stocking, but oh! my dear brethren, it is impossible to describe what passed in my heart, on viewing these poor people crowding round me to look at my foot. I immediately saw a great change on their countenance. Their fear, their prejudices disappeared, and I had the joy of announcing to them the Gospel. They listened with much attention, and I took advantage of the priest’s falsehood respecting the cloven foot, to show them that all the other things he said against us were alike false.”

II. ITS GROWTH.

Notwithstanding all these obstacles, this work, being of God, began to take hold on the hearts of the people. Here and there a few brave men and women renounced the errors of Rome in the face of the fiercest persecutions to accept the simple teachings of the Gospel. One of these old heroes of the faith relates that for a whole year he was never able to undress; he was compelled to protect himself, family and property, rifle in hand. The F. C. M. Society very soon realized that its work would be almost fruitless as long as ignorance prevailed, and very early took the wise resolution of erecting a large school, missionary in its character and in which the children of converts and of Roman Catholic families would obtain board, secular and religious instruction in both languages at as low a figure as possible and if necessary, gratuitously. These schools were from the very beginning well attended and for forty years have been giving a Christian education to hundreds of children who with few exceptions have become Protestant and Christian. The French Canadian Protestants who in Canada and the United States occupy good social