

one hundred and forty members, when all his brethren were puzzled to know how he made up his figures. Two years later, in 1882, this brother withdrew from the church, and, in 1883, the return of French members dropped suddenly to two hundred and forty-five—an apparent decrease of two hundred and forty-three in three years. In 1890, the number of members was 209—a decrease in the decade of thirty-six. In 1900 there was a report of 271—an increase in that decade—1890-1900—of sixty-two. In the Minutes of the Montreal Conference for 1905, the number of members on our French Missions is stated at 212—another decrease in five years of fifty-nine, being sixty-two less than we had twenty-seven years ago. That is, choosing for the purpose of a fair comparison, the year 1878, before the time of the inflation, for if it were 1879 or 1880, the comparison would be still more unfavorable. So far then as the naked figures, as they have been gathered from the books, indicate the success of this Missionary Society in French evangelization, here they are, without, as yet, any attempt to account for either the smallness of the numbers, or for their fluctuations from time to time.

The Cost

To answer the question that I have undertaken to deal with, it is necessary to count the cost at which this work has been sustained. It is impossible with the incomplete data at hand to give the exact amount, therefore I attempt only an approximation, which, after all, may be pretty close, and rather under than over the actual figure. I had not the Missionary Reports from 1856, therefore have taken the years that mark the decades. These are not high record years, nor special in any sense, and hence will help us to a just average.

The grant to French Missions in 1860 was \$1,290 for three missions. I mul-