

the universal prevalence of the corruptions of Popery amongst them, and the vast influence which they are destined to exert on the great interests, civil and religious, of these Provinces, we may well be astonished, that our Church has never even taken into consideration the urgent duty and high expediency of sending Missionaries amongst them.

We had for a time seen the French Canadians quiet and peaceful, and apparently contented ; but, ought we to have been blind or insensible to their spiritual wretchedness, so long as they were denied access to the oracles of the living God, and were under the guidance of teachers who direct the troubled in conscience to penances, or to the merits and intercessions of Saints and Angels, rather than to the atonement and advocacy of the Son of God. And we have during the last eighteen months seen them rise again and again as one man to cast off by force of arms the Government which from a state of vassalage had raised them to the immunities and honours of free men ; and ought we to wonder, that, they being destitute of that religion which alone can purify and fortify conscience, should be found destitute also of those virtues which are essential to the very existence of civil society ? We have gloried—too often perhaps in a carnal way, in the thorough reformation from Popery, which long ago passed on the religion of our native land and which has been in a manner hereditary to us, and our confession of faith is surpassed by none framed at or since the reformation, in the fulness and scripturalness of the testimony which it contains against the errors and delusions of Popery ; and yet, living on the borders of a dense popish population, some of us in the midst of it, we have exhibited but little concern for their scriptural illumination and conversion.

Let us acknowledge and lament our past insensibility. All is wrong with a Church, when its ministers and members are doing nothing for the salvation of others around them, whom they themselves profess to regard as perishing. A more entire devotedness to the Saviour, a higher estimate of the blessings of his Kingdom, and a stronger love and compassion to our fellow men would have impelled us as a Church to have done something for the benighted inhabitants of Lower Canada. We might have called on our people to remember their wretched condition at a throne of grace, and to pray to God to send labourers amongst them and open their hearts to the reception of his truth. We might have collected funds in supporting Missionaries to them ; we might have pled with the Church at home for assistance

in this enterprise, and through them, we might have addressed ourselves to the reformed Churches in France and Switzerland, in order to draw their attention to this interesting field of Missionary labour. And, who may say that these doings would have been in vain ? We may believe that God would have honoured us with fruit in the conversion of some who are still the blinded votaries of "the man of sin," and would in many ways have blessed us by increasing and strengthening and edifying our Churches. Let then our past unprofitableness be for a lamentation, and, let us arise and give thanks to God that we may through his forbearance and longsuffering, still in some measure redeem the time, and acquit ourselves under the responsibility that lies upon us.

Other Churches are beginning to bestir themselves in behalf of the poor blinded French Canadians. Some of the Swiss Churches have sent out a Missionary to them. And from recent accounts, his patient and self-denying labours have been owned of God to the gathering in of a few to the knowledge and acknowledgment of Christ's sole and undivided Headship of the Church. This Missionary is stationed in a district contiguous to the American lines in the direction of Lake Champlain. The recent insurrection which had threatened the expulsion of Mr. Roussy, for such is the name of the Missionary, and his assistants, has through the over-ruling care of the Great Head of the Church contributed in a remarkable degree to promote its success.

Several christians in Montreal of various denominations have recently associated themselves together, under the title of "THE FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY," "the exclusive object of which, is to provide means for preaching and otherwise disseminating the Gospel of Christ among the inhabitants of Canada using the French language."

The office bearers and committee of this society are members and Ministers of different Churches. We believe it to be the more excellent way for Churches, as Churches, to enter into the work of evangelizing the unevangelized world ; but, it may be time enough, for us to censure the constitution of *The French Canadian Missionary Society*, when we in our ecclesiastical organization take up the work of Missions to the benighted *habitans* with greater devotedness than the good men of that Society have done.

These remarks are humbly, yet earnestly recommended to the consideration of the Members, Elders, and Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Canada ; of those especially, who are to constitute the Synod, that is to assemble at Kingston