

BOURG-LOUIS AND PORTNEUF.

The past year at Bourg-Louis commenced with difficulties. Services had to be suspended; at length, after a petition from the people to that effect, a part of the debt was remitted. This left only a few dollars to be made up; after this had been done the Church bell was rung, and there was great rejoicing. Since that time my intercourse with the people has been of a more pleasant nature. After the Church was reopened the Congregation steadily increased, and the Church became well filled. As the people responded and sang well, we had very hearty services. There was also a goodly number of communicants, so I commenced to celebrate the Holy Communion after every Sunday morning service. This has been kept up ever since. In the beginning of last October I removed from Bourg-Louis to Portneuf; the Parsonage in the former place is empty, and the people have no resident Clergyman of our Church amongst them. But I hope this will not be for long. I am seventeen miles away from them, and sometimes the roads are very bad. Something that took place during the past week will serve as an illustration of the difficulties under which a Missionary who has long distances to travel has to labour. Last Sunday one of my parishioners, whom I have been visiting during many months, died. I was away at Portneuf. A message was sent by the courier to Pointe-aux-Trembles. He was to send the message to me by telegraph. In order to accomplish this the telegram had to be sent to Quebec by one company, and then back to Portneuf by another; it was evening when the message reached Portneuf to ask me to be out at Bourg-Louis the next morning at 10 o'clock for the funeral. However, when the message was taken to my house I was eighteen miles away in the opposite direction visiting some of my people, and did not arrive home until the next day, too late to go out to Bourg-Louis. I therefore waited until the next morning. As soon as it was light enough I started, and on reaching Bourg-Louis found that the people had met together for the funeral at the Church, and waited for me. At last they decided to leave the corpse in the Church until I should come to bury it. So when I went out the next day I found it there. But new troubles arose; I had to be back in Portneuf by about 6.30 a.m., so I had very little time to spare. The funeral, therefore, had to take place before all friends could assemble. This was of course the source of great disappointment and expressions of displeasure.

Portneuf was for many years without a resident Clergy-