

News of our Church.

THE FRENCH MISSION.

Mr. Baridon continues to report favourably of his field. The present season is not so advantageous for visitation, in consequence of the pressing nature of out-door work, and a people who live pretty much from hand to mouth need to improve such times. But while one department of the missionary's evangelical labours is thus arrested in its course, another presents itself which is diligently improved. At this season crowds of French Canadians, residents of Canada, go into our missionary's district to gather wild fruit of which there is a great abundance. Mr. B. has had several interesting meetings specially for them. Writing of one which he held on the evening of the 30th July, he expresses the belief that those whom he addressed never before heard a Protestant preach. He has been gratified by hearing that his address was blessed to the whole meeting except three attendants who would not accept *that new religion*, as they called it. One of the hearers followed him to a barn whither he went to get his horse, seemingly afraid to talk with him before the people. "Yes sir," said he, "I have heard some things new. You have spoken the truth. I have no trust in our priests, who always preach salvation by obedience to the Church and other practices, in which, for myself, I profess no confidence at all. I agree with you that it appears to be more worth to be saved by the free mercy of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ than by any other way; but I dare not speak of it to any one of my fellow Canadians. They have too much trust in the priest, I perceive."

Mr. Baridon has occasionally referred to what he designates "a dark fanatical zeal" displayed by the representative of another Protestant sect, in seeking to propagate his peculiar dogmas. Mr. B. wishes him God speed among the Romanists but thinks it is not right or prudent to try to proselytize his people. Most sensible persons will agree with our missionary. Whatever may be said of the narrow spirit by which a direct insidious proselytism is prompted, when a people who were never Romanists are the objects, it seems exceedingly reprehensible in any way to practise or countenance it, among the converts from Romanism. The effect upon their minds cannot be good, and it is truly an unseemly thing for one Protestant evangelist to bestow any attention to the people of an-

other, which is likely to operate unfavourably upon the relation in which they stand to that other. Surely missionaries should be taught that their work is not to turn Presbyterians into Methodists, or Methodists into Baptists, but to bring the Romanist to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. In applying themselves to that undertaking they have enough to do.

We are happy to be able to say that Mr. Tanner's health is greatly improved, and that he will soon be so thoroughly restored, we hope, as to resume his public duties. With the sanction of the Committee he has gone to Portland, whence he will proceed to St. John, New Brunswick, and perhaps Halifax, N. S. While it is expected that by spending a few weeks on the sea coast his health will be fully re-established, he will take such opportunities as may occur of introducing the claims of the Mission and obtaining assistance in its behalf. At St. John, he will find the Synod of the Church of New Brunswick in session, and will thus be enabled to make the brethren acquainted with his work. Among the liberally disposed friends of the Church in St. John, Fredericton, and such other places as he may visit, it is thought he may awaken some interest and get some aid for his cause. During his absence his friends Messrs. Doudiet, Cyr, Wolff, and Baridon will, by their kind offices, minister to his people.

Mr. Frereault continues cheerfully and enthusiastically at his work in the day school, and this promises to be a most useful auxiliary of the Mission. Some donations in its behalf have been kindly sent to the Convener, who gratefully acknowledges them.

Some progress has been made in the Building Fund since our last. On the evening of the 22nd of July a meeting was held in St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, according to an arrangement kindly carried out by the Minister, the Rev. A. Spence, and his Session. It was attended by three members of the Committee, the Convener, the Secretary, and the Rev. J. Black of Chatham. Full details as to the state and prospects of the Mission were submitted, and they were received with marked attention. The day following ample proof was afforded of the favourable disposition of our friends there, by the pleasant and liberal manner in which they presented their offerings, and by their free expression of benevolent wishes. The Treasurer ac-