

The good Catholic, among these last, is he who faithfully performs certain acts of devotion, nearly all of which are external, and need not influence in an appreciable manner the heart or the daily life of the worshipper. At stated times he goes through the form of auricular confession, receives the priest's absolution conditionally, a certain number of Latin prayers having to be repeated as a penance. Then he receives the host, and believes himself sanctified "Ex opere operato," being in a state of grace, until he sins again. If dying, his priest anoints him with oil, to cleanse his soul from all remnants of sin. He will wear medals, pieces of wood, hair, bones, etc., said to be relics, and trust to these to be preserved from temporal or spiritual evils. He will hang a scapulary around his neck for further protection; and then, after a time more or less long in the purifying flames of purgatory, he thinks he will be fit for heaven. This religion can be quite consistent, with bitter hatred of the Gospel of Christ, and of all who follow it.....Strange Christianity indeed! To us it is Anti-Christian.

Three methods of evangelizing Romanists are open to us, the Press, the Pulpit, and Personal dealing with those we wish to save.

Fifty years ago the press was a small danger among the country people of the Roman Catholic faith here. Few of them could read. It is different now. There are schools in nearly every parish now. The clergy exercise a strict censorship over all the reading matter of their parishioners. Only newspapers approved by them can be taken; and as to the Testament, that book above all others, must be avoided. It is declared to be a bad book, the book of the devil, to be burned at once if discovered in a house of a Catholic. The Roman Catholic press is so well drilled into obedience that we do not believe there is a single Roman Catholic paper in French Canada which would dare to open its columns to a free discussion of religious truth. We can use the press, therefore, in a very limited scale only. We have a French Protestant paper, with but a small circulation. It is, of course, under the ban. Printing and circulating pamphlets on the great religious questions of the day have been found useful, although somewhat costly methods of reaching the people. The dissemination of the Scriptures by colporteurs is one of our most powerful agencies for good, especially when these are men able to act at the same time as evangelists.

The pulpit holds an important place in our work. Although Romanists are strictly forbidden to attend our churches, many do actually come. It is important, therefore, that preachers in our special work should be well educated and able men. God allowed Samson to defeat the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass, but we must remember that all men are not Samsons.

A missionary among Roman Catholics should be a good controversialist;