

clearly from the written word of God. By reflecting on the present state of our mission, we are led to conclude that though the power of popery is almost unbounded, and that the priests rule their blind zealots with a rod of iron, still a stronger than they shall yet break the fetters by which they are bound, and bid the captives go free. We hope to accomplish great things in the future, nor do we think that our hope is without foundation, the spirit of independent enquiry is still alive, though much effort is put forth to suppress it, and "even to-day," writes your Missionary, "a new enquirer paid me a visit privately, and asked me several questions about religious subjects. I answered his questions, and gave him a Testament, marking several places which I wished him particularly to notice, and after some further conference he left me, seemingly much relieved." Thus it appears that there are a few precious gems to be gathered up, a few who have been called by God out of darkness into his marvellous light, and thus had your Missionary encouragement to labour even amid many difficulties. During the past season he succeeded in distributing 65 Testaments and 550 tracts among the French population, and though this was his main labour, yet, in addition to this, he embraced every opportunity which offered itself for holding meetings, and preaching the word to them publicly. We hope that the seed of the word thus sown may be accompanied with God's blessing, and bring forth fruit to his glory.

In passing from this point, we must not fail to refer to another matter which seriously engaged the attention of this Society; we mean the establishing of a Missionary School in connection with the mission. This matter you will remember was referred to in last year's Report, and was discussed at two or three subsequent meetings, and the result of these deliberations is, that your Committee see no very great obstacle in the way of its being accomplished. That such an institution, is desirable must be felt by every one who carefully thinks over the present state of our mission-field; ignorance being the chief obstacle in the way of your Missionary. This can be made abundantly plain by just referring to one part of his report. He says—speaking of this very matter—"What is most discouraging, is the amount of gross ignorance which prevails among whole families, not one of whose members can even read. I have given Testaments and tracts to people who had to go to the third or fourth family in order to have them read, but the majority of such refuse to take any, simply because they are of no use them, and thus my efforts are rendered almost useless in these parts."

Now, what is to be done to have that barrier removed? We cannot expect any help from a bigoted priesthood, whose motto is "*Ignorance the mother of devotion*," and whose chief efforts are to extinguish every ray of intellectual culture, and to eradicate every independent enquiry into the religion of the Bible. It is needless for you to send Missionaries and Colporteurs to distribute Testaments and tracts among those who cannot read them; and the only way of removing that ignorance, is by the establishing of a school, where the rising generation may be educated, and thus brought into a position that the word of God can reach them. Your Missionary sometimes travelled for days in certain localities without distributing a single Testament or tract, because the people were unable to read them; and to leave a Testament with such would have been useless. A great difference can easily be perceived in passing from a locality where ignorance prevails, to one where the inhabitants enjoy a certain amount of education, and in nothing is the difference more felt than in the success of your Missionary. Coming to Point-Aux-Roches, where education has some hold, the very first day he distributed 15 Testaments and a large number of tracts. Wherever there is a taste for reading formed he is almost certain of some success. In view of these things we commend the earnest consideration of this matter to you during the coming season, and though you may not yet be in a fit position for establishing a school, it ought ever to be kept prominently before your minds as a great end to be attained. The perpetual demand of our French converts is for such a school, and it would be the only effectual means of