

SWISS MISSION AT GRANDE LIGNE.

Having been again favored by our esteemed friend, Mr. T. M. THOMPSON, of Napier-ville, with a narrative of the recent success of this most interesting mission, we have great pleasure in laying his communication before our readers.

DEAR BROTHER DAVIES.—The progress of the Gospel among the French Canadians is an object in which I feel such an interest, that I am induced to give a little further information respecting it, in the hope that numbers of your readers, both far and near, will participate in the joy which such information is so well calculated to inspire. Since the communication which appeared in the *Mayazine* last February, relative to the state of the mission at the Grand Ligne, the great Head of the Church has given our devoted friends the most cheering evidences of his approbation and his blessing. There has been a greater number of conversions than at almost any former period of the same length, and the desire manifested by many in various parts of the country to read the Bible, and to hear of redemption through the gospel of Jesus alone, give the most decided evidence that the spirit of enquiry is awakened among the people, and also that the good seed which has been sown by those devoted servants of God, is bringing forth fruit to his glory. The limits of this communication will not admit of many particulars, no doubt very interesting, being inserted, but the writer may be allowed to notice very briefly, some facts in connection with the conversion of individuals who have lately joined the church at the Grand Ligne, which will tend to exhibit the power of the gospel, as well as the genuineness of their own conversion.

Henri B.—is by birth a French Canadian, but for some years past has been pursuing his occupation as a mechanic in the United States. He left home a strict Roman Catholic, but going into strange society without the shield of religion, and unsustained by the protecting influence of pious associates, he became, as might be expected, the companion of the ungodly, and returned last autumn a confirmed infidel. His father, mother, and four sisters, being at that time the whole family, were some years ago baptized and added to the Grande Ligne church, and from their superior intelligence and piety, form some of its brightest ornaments. This dear family, including Henri, are much attached to one another, and nothing but his conversion seemed wanting to complete their happiness. One of the younger sisters who used

often to sit on his knee; and to whom he would tell his plans for making them all comfortable in the world, would frequently burst into tears, and when asked by her brother why she wept, would reply, "Henri does not love the Saviour; how can we be happy without loving the lovely Jesus." On such occasions he would go to his employment, or any where out of the way. His sleeping apartment was separated from that of his sisters by a thin partition, and nothing, he afterwards said, so irritated his feelings and enraged his mind, as to hear the two elder sisters regularly praying for his conversion to God. But the time of his deliverance was drawing nigh. The greater part of the family and sometimes the whole, have been in the habit of spending the first day of the new year at the mission house, and as Henri had never been there (their residence being twenty-four miles off) they persuaded him to go with his mother and some of his sisters, although with great reluctance, as he had some misgivings about the result. The conversation at the mission was naturally of a religious character, in the course of which he informed Madame Feller that he had been lately convinced of the authenticity of the scriptures, although he felt no particular interest in them. She asked if he ever prayed: he said no; that whenever he tried, the thousands of objects that diverted his attention rendered it quite impossible. He was informed that it was his duty not only to pray, but to do so in spirit and in truth, and exhorted, if convinced of the duty, to begin that very night, and seek for pardon and salvation through the blood of Jesus. After retiring for the night he endeavoured to pray; but the usual confusion of his mind drove him from his knees and to his bed. When he had lain down, the thought struck him, am I really robbed of the mastery of my thoughts by the dominion of evil spirits? and so much did it occupy his mind, that he slept but little during the night. In the morning he said but little, and after family worship retired to his room. Madame Feller, who had observed his emotion, followed him very shortly after, and found him in tears. "What is the matter Henri?" said she. "Oh I am a great sinner, a great sinner!" The devoted missionaries, with the mother and sisters, continued for hours in teaching, encouraging, reading and praying with him, and although our wintry days are but very short, the light of the sun did not leave the firmament, until the light of God's countenance had shone with peace and celestial brightness into his happy soul, and the sun of righteousness had arisen upon him with healing in his beams. Upon returning home, the father embraced him saying, "I