

FORTY ONE YEARS OF MISSION WORK.

Sophie Jonte, of the Grande Ligne Mission, has fallen asleep peacefully in her Saviour after forty-one years of missionary labor and devotion in connection with Grande Ligne Mission. From her conversion her thoughts were directed towards mission work, and this, her heart's desire, was only strengthened on entering the family of the director of Protestant missions in Paris, M. Grandpierre, where she each day was connected with the pupils of the house, young men full of energy and zeal, who were preparing to carry the Gospel to the heathen in Southern Africa, where they were abundantly blessed. During these relations, our young sister became more intimately acquainted with mission work, and became remarkable for her piety and her unswerving fidelity in the fulfilment of duty. So they were greatly surprised and pained when she announced her intention to leave them and go to Canada. They could scarcely comprehend and were inclined to attribute her wish to leave them to some selfish motive, for they had hoped to secure her services for life. Madame Feller's letters to her friends in Europe had touched her heart, and, under the direction of God, she consecrated herself to Him and His work, praying that He would accept her for his work, and that He would prepare her way to Canada. Her arrangements completed, she set out (defraying her own expenses), being accompanied by one of her friends, who was willing to work in unison with her. They arrived at Madame Feller's, January 6th, 1839. It was then the time of revolutionary troubles, the country was in disorder especially Grande Ligne and vicinity, for all the inhabitants were involved in the insurrection.

After the triumph of the English arms, the people were struck with astonishment and fear of being punished, and so every one hastened to seek the protection of Madame Feller. Each day, men, mothers, bathed in tears, came to beg her to use her influence with the authorities. Madame Feller's heart was touched at the sight of so much grief, and an English magistrate—a friend in the work—counselled her to carry the cause before the Governor. Without hesitancy, about the last of November, Madame Feller set out in a *chaise* for Montreal, over the most terrible roads. She held an interview with the Governor who received her kindly. Lady Colborne enquired about the work of the mission in detail, and Mrs. Feller was assured by the Governor that the insurgents would be treated favorably with the exception of the chiefs who had abused the people. The return to Grande Ligne was a very perilous one, with no ferry boat. It was necessary to cross the St. Lawrence in a canoe, the wind was severely cold, and snow accompanied; and, owing to the obstructions in the river and the inclemency of the weather, could only approach within 50 or 60 feet of the land. The gentleman of the boat jumped into the water, Madame Feller, the only woman in the canoe, was greatly distressed, when a robust and kind Irishman, passing that way and noticing her distress, offered to carry her on his back to shore which offer she gratefully accepted, and was safely placed on land. The Lord watched over his servant, and conducted her safely back to Grande Ligne in spite of the bad weather and the condition of the roads. There was great joy among the people of the place on learning of her favorable interview with Sir John and Lady Colborne. Madame Feller's influence increased, every one wished to see her and speak with her; and never did she show herself more noble or more Christian-like than during these circumstances, assuring the visitors of God's love, urging them to put an end to the unjust war which existed between themselves and Him and his Gospel, and to give themselves to Christ, their Saviour and Redeemer. But Madame Feller's work was too wearing—the numerous calls, duties of school besides domestic duties—as she was longing for succor; it was just at this juncture that Miss Jonte and her companion arrived at Grande Ligne.