

## NOTES OF FRENCH WORK.

**French Converts.** The following interesting instances from the report of a French Missionary; shew quiet but effective work.

"One good family consisting of father, an intelligent man, carpenter by trade, the mother, and three boys, brought out of the darkness of Romanism, the parents true Christians. This family did not find it a bed of roses to leave their Church, they had to bear their share of persecution. In January last they were burned out one bitter night, none of their neighbors took them in, and they were out until they got shelter with ourselves and with another Protestant family."

"Another case, a family, of father, also a carpenter, mother and two children, are about to publicly sever all connection with Romanism. The father has not been absent from any of our services for some months. The mother has the New Testament constantly open upon her kitchen table, and while busy at work snatches moments to read a verse or two. She will have nothing more to do with the Church of Rome. Some time ago, some one asked her why she left her book on the table, for if the priest should happen to call and see it he would burn it. She answered: 'There is no danger. In the first place the priest is not likely to come, and if he does let him dare to touch my book; it will cost him dear. I like the book; it is the word of God and no man can take it from me, or prevent me from reading and following it.'"

"Another family, the father cannot read, the mother can, and is very intelligent. She got a Testament, read it and said she would not part with it. Their son, through mischief, threw the book into the stove, saying they did not need it. The mother reprimanded him and compelled him to pay her the price of the book out of his daily wages, saying she would purchase another, and if any one dare lay their hands upon it, they would be punished."

"Again, at a funeral which I conducted this spring the house was crowded with Roman Catholics. They paid the greatest attention to the sermon and all made an effort to kneel for prayer, though they were crowded standing. And I have since learned that many were astonished at what they heard; so different from the things they had been taught of Protestants."

"A gentleman with whom I held a long discussion, said after we had talked for nearly two hours: 'Well, you have sadly troubled my mind. I felt sure that ours was the true religion, but I am beaten by the Word of God.' I then pointed him to Christ and the cleansing blood of Calvary. He said: 'I must study the Scriptures. I am seeking salvation at any cost, and if it is not in our Church I will leave it and seek salvation until I find it.'"

**St. Mark's French Ch., Otta.** Rev. E. T. Seylaz, in report-  
ing for the past year, says, "Our flock has learned the important lesson that Christians should support Gospel ordinances according to their ability. Formerly they had been taught that 'the Gospel is free,' but had not been taught that 'they' who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.' It was difficult to teach them differently, but they have learned it and for the past year and more they have done nobly to their utmost capacity. The very poorest widows, some earning a scanty living in the wash tub, others sewing for merchants at one dollar per dozen for making men's tweed trousers, have contributed \$3.00 for the support of the cause. Others have given \$5.00 and \$10.00. One family consisting of an aged widow and her two daughters had promised \$6.00, they gave \$15.50, and deprived themselves of need therefor, but they all united to say, 'We must show our appreciation of what our missionary and his wife are doing for us by doing all we possibly can.' Our church is now free of debt, and I trust we shall continue so."

Now about the Spiritual part; formerly I could not have prevailed on one person to offer prayer, now at our prayer meetings four or five lead in prayer, and do my heart good by their sincerity. A larger number take an active part in their Endeavor meetings.

Formerly at our Sabbath School we had but half a dozen or so, but under Mrs. Seylaz' care it has grown to 35. They too, have learned that it is their duty to contribute their pennies weekly. Mrs. Seylaz was told repeatedly, 'You will scare the children away if you ask them for money.' She persisted, saying, 'They must be trained into all the truth, and this is a part of the truth.' So far from chasing away the few who attended, the school has grown monthly to what it now is."

**Fear of Persecution.** "During the year," writes a French missionary, "I have many interesting conversations with Roman Catholics. Many came to our home and spent evenings, being anxious to know the difference between their religion and ours. The precious seed is thus sown in many hearts. They, in turn, speak to others of what they have heard and thus light is spreading through the land."

I know for a fact that fear of persecution, and of being deprived of work, keeps a great many from coming to us. Many tell me plainly, "We would like to go to your Church, but if we do we shall be persecuted, and our priests will excite others against us, and we shall lose our employment. This I know to be too true; unfortunately there are not enough Protestant employers here, who are not afraid to employ converts, but the time must come when the soil being thoroughly prepared, many will leave the Church of Rome to unite with the Gospel."