

## The Presbyterian Review.

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"I am in the place where I am demanded of Conscience to speak the truth, and therefore the truth I speak, impugn it whose list."—JOHN KNOX.

Toronto, November 9, 1893.

### Unique Missionary Effort.

PROBABLY no department of Church work attracts so wide and genuine attention as that of Missions. The heart goes out to those whose opportunities are limited, or whose indifference blinds them to serious thought on their spiritual condition; and Christian love is nowhere seen to better advantage than in missionary effort, at home or abroad, to rescue the perishing. We feel sure that many of our readers, imbued with this sentiment, will read with much interest a short description of a work carried on by the Rescue Mission on the Erie canal:

At the first of the year Mr. H. B. Andrews, a business man of that city, who is an officer of the International Evangelistic Association, having headquarters in the United Charities Building, Fourth avenue and Twenty-second street, New York city, purchased a canal boat formerly used by a circus company. It was remodelled and repaired somewhat, was named the "Good News," and outside and inside it was adorned by Scripture texts and Gospel messages. It is under the general superintendence of Mr. H. B. Gibbard, who has charge of the Rescue Mission in Syracuse. Five workers were found willing to give their lives up to Christian work in that line and trust to the Lord for their support. Mr. Charles McClinchey, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has had charge of the work on board the "Good News," assisted by Mr. Sanford Van Loven, a convert of the mission. The plan of the mission is to carry the message into all the cities, towns, villages and hamlets along the waterway from Buffalo to Albany. The boat, drawn by one horse, attracts great attention, with its Scripture texts from stern to stern, and these are read from daylight to dark. At night a large transparency flashes out Gospel words on the dark waters. Special efforts are made to reach drinking men and non-churchgoers. At evening an open air service, lasting an hour or so, is held from the dock, the people gathering on the bridge and banks of the canal. A large oil painting, illustrating the "two ways," is used in this open air meeting and the people are invited to a service in the cabin, which holds about seventy-five. A short sermon is preached and testimonies are given, followed by an invitation to accept Christ, after which an inquiry meeting is held, to which the unsaved are invited. The names of those professing conversion are sent to some of the pastors of the place where the Gospel canal boat happens to be. The work is carried on with canalmen by means of a Gospel fish pole with packages of tracts on the end, which are handed over to

passing boats. Little floats with cardboard sails, on which are painted Scripture texts, are dropped at intervals, and float away with their message, to be read by many passing and to be fished out by the small boy and taken home as a curiosity.

### Our Symposium.

ON another page will be found the first of a series of articles written specially for the Review, on the very important question of how to interest the young men in the active work of the Church. The writer of the first article is Rev. Dr. McTavish, Toronto, whose conclusions are based upon a wide and successful experience in dealing with the young.

### French Evangelization.

PRINCIPAL McVICAR, Chairman, and Mr. S. J. Taylor, Secretary of the Board of French Evangelization, have issued the following weighty appeal:—Christian Friends: The Board of French Evangelization exists for the purpose of giving the inestimable blessing of an open Bible to the million and a quarter of French-speaking Roman Catholics in the Dominion of Canada. To this end it employs *colporteurs*, school teachers, missionaries and pastors. Eighty-nine workers are thus engaged. In the ninety-six preaching stations, one hundred and ninety-two members were added to the Church during the year. Sixteen hundred and twenty-four copies and portions of the Scriptures and twenty five thousand tracts and religious papers were sold and distributed. Eight hundred and thirty-three scholars, of whom three hundred and eighty-three were from Roman Catholic homes, were taught in the mission day-schools. One hundred and sixty-eight boys and girls attended the Central Mission School at Pointe-aux-Trembles, of whom six were children of Protestant families, seventy-five of converted families, and eighty-seven of parents who still adhere to the Church of Rome. It is needless perhaps to say that the hierarchy control the schools in the Province of Quebec, and hence the necessity for mission day-schools. Eighteen French students are pursuing their studies in the Presbyterian College, Montreal, where the Board supports a French professor.

For over fifty years this work has been carried on. Results cannot be represented by figures, but some of them are to be seen in a growing intelligence and appreciation of evangelical truth on the part of the people and a corresponding giving way of prejudices; in the desire, tacit or avowed, to break away from ecclesiastical authority and domination; in the thousands of Roman Catholics who read proscribed literature; in the increasing demand for better education for their children, and requests for the establishment of mission schools; in the fifteen hundred pupils attending Protestant mission schools; in the twelve thousand Canadians of French origin who attend evangelical places of worship in Canada; in the twenty-five thousand French Canadian Protestants who have gone to the United States and in the fact that while fifty-five years ago there was not a known French Canadian Protestant, to-day there are some forty thousand in Canada and the United States.

There are at present open doors into new parishes and urgent request for teachers. But the Board is face to face with a large deficit, and finds itself reluctantly obliged to consider where and how retrenchment can be made so as to keep within the limits of the means at its disposal. After anxious consideration it has been resolved to borrow the amount necessary to meet salaries now due (making the