

however, was taken in good part by the young men, and they still continue to attend the meetings regularly, and we hope that they will repent and seek pardon, and that ere long we can receive them again. There are several persons still Roman Catholics whom we visit, and hope to be able to lead out of darkness into the light of the Gospel, with God's help, before very long. There are not many Catholics who attend our meetings in Maskinongé of late, timidity seems to be the cause, for if one comes to a service, the following day the whole parish knows it, yet there is hardly a day passes, but that some of our members have occasion to speak of the Gospel to some Catholic friend or neighbor. All our members are zealous and anxious to make the Gospel known to those about them, as well as they can, still their families seem to cling to Roman superstitions and errors with great tenacity, and many of them appear to be more bigotted Catholics than they were a year ago. The priest has a terrible hold on the women, and through them holds sway in the homes. It would seem, by the masses and special services held in the Roman Catholic church during the past year, that the greatest efforts of the clergy of the diocese are concentrated in this and the neighboring parishes. There is one of our members who has been visited no less than twelve times this year by different priests, who have all tried in vain to induce him to go back to Rome. One woman, the wife of one of our Protestants, has paid \$165 to the priest to have masses said in order to bring her husband back to Rome. Only last week a pilgrimage went from this place to a new shrine lately discovered in this diocese! (St. Madeline) to implore the great saint to cast out the plague of Protestantism from the diocese, and increase the faith in and devotion to the Catholic churches.

We have great and various obstacles to contend with in the work, it would require more space than this report can claim to relate them, but if any one would like to get a knowledge of the difficulties, we would invite them to come and spend a week in our midst and see for themselves. Traditions, superstitions, gross ignorance, priestly influence on one hand, and worldliness, intemperance and infidelity on the other.

One of our members over 80 years of age is very ill and not expected to live; hearing this, the other day, the priest went to see him and offered to administer the last rites of the church to him. Being surrounded by Catholics, they are naturally doing their best to induce the poor old man to have the priest, and then the priest can raise the usual cry "Protestantism will do to live by, but not to die in." But the old brother is firm, in his rejection of the priest, and his faith in Christ, and we are watching his bedside as closely as possible. Last year our church numbered 19, the increase by baptism has been four during the year and the decrease by dismissal two, so that our church numbers 21 at present. There are 23 Protestants in Maskinongé,