

### FRENCH EVANGELIZATION. CONVENER'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH.

The cloud that led the old exodus out of Egypt had two sides—a bright side and a dark side. But God was in the cloud, and so the leading went on, not straight forward, indeed, but with many windings. It took forty years for the exodus to get there. But it got there. God was in the cloud and so it got there, and the ages have been looking back ever since, and wondering, questioning, theorizing, as to however it got there.

Another exodus is going on—call it French Evangelization—and will it ever get there? The cloud that leads this movement has its dark side, and the dark side is very much in evidence. That is the only side so many see. If, however, the cloud has its dark side, it has also its bright side, and one thing we are to be clear about, God is in the cloud. Whether, therefore, dark or bright, we are to follow on and fear not, assured of this, that if God leads this movement He will yet bring us there. You tell me that after 32 years we should have made more progress, and Canaan's goodly land should at least be in sight. But if it was not so yonder after 32 years of wandering in the wilderness, let us not wonder if it is not so here; let us not wonder, if it is still dark; and if it seems at times as if we were back to almost where we started years ago.

#### Details of the Mission.

Every little detail has its interest—every talk by the wayside, every Bible sold, every visit paid, every tract given, every sermon preached, every new child at the Mission school, every new hearer at the Mission church, every new convert abjuring the old faith for the new. We cannot over-estimate these little details of the work and the workers feel it hard, that at our Synod and Assembly meetings, these little things of so much interest and importance to them, are of no account, or seem to be, where so much time is given up to every discussion and keen debate.

A detail or two, as a sample of what is being done all over our seventy Mission stations, is in place. Rev. R. P. Ducloux, our veteran missionary writes as follows:—

"On the 14th of April last, Mr. Albert Forget, a B.A. a writer and lecturer, landed in Montreal with his wife and child, and went straight to his cousin's, Mr. Massard, an intelligent member of La Croix Church. In the course of conversation Massard said to his cousin Albert: 'I must tell you one thing. I am not what I was. I am a Protestant, a bona fide Protestant.'

'A Protestant, are you?' answered Forget, with more evidence of pleasure than surprise. 'So you are a Protestant. Let me congratulate you. I have been thinking I would like to be one. I have a feeling they are happier than we are. You see our little boy, thirteen months old, is not baptized. I did not want a priest to put his hand on his head!' A few minutes after the 'phone called me up—'Can you receive visitors?' 'Yes.' An hour after the two cousins and their wives were sitting with me, giving me their experiences, their doubts, their hopes. I saw tears trickling down their cheeks. 'Can't we join your church now?' asked the new couple. On evidence of their understanding, their sincerity, and true desire to follow Christ, what could I say but a well articulated 'Yes'?

On Sunday the 19th, the child was baptized, and both husband and wife sat at the communion table. On that occasion eleven new members, all on profession, were added to the communion roll.

A week later, the 26th of April, I saw an old lady sitting on one of the front seats, listening with intense attention.

Coming down from the pulpit, I shook hands with her. 'Sir,' she said, 'I came from Belgium. I could not stay any longer away from my sons. You know when they are young they cling to the mother. When they grow older mothers have to cling to them. The family circle is after all nearer and dearer than country. I am glad,' she added, 'to find them here. Everything is new to me, having never been in a Protestant church before. I feel happy this morning.'

"A week later, on May 3rd, a father stepped into the church, followed by four children, all of school age. They were enrolled and swelled the Sunday school roll to sixty-eight. It is in that way over 200 families and 134 young men have attended our services during the past eighteen months. Most of them move on all over the country. They stay two, three, four, twelve months perhaps."

Such is a sample of the work our missionaries are doing, and it is of the greatest interest to the church, and the day will come when the good work will tell. Just now it seems to be scattered, and you cannot lay your hand on it, but it is seed sown, and the harvest will be by and by in a blessed awakening and glorious reaping time.

#### Pointe Aux Trembles Schools.

Two years ago, with much fear and trembling, we broke ground in the way of rebuilding and repairing. Funds seemed to be coming in very slowly. The board, however, decided to go on with the work. Last autumn the work was completed in a very substantial and satisfactory way, and at the reopening of the schools a dedication service was held. The occasion was of memorable interest to the friends of the institution, and a new era, it was felt, was entered upon.

The work cost in round numbers \$66,000, of which \$51,000 have already been paid, leaving a balance of \$15,000 still unpaid. In addition the furnishing cost \$9,000 all of which has been paid. Considering everything, therefore, we have every reason to thank God and take courage.

We are proud of our Mission schools, and we have every reason to be proud of them. During the 62 years of their existence, upwards of 5,000 French Canadians have been educated in them, many of whom are to-day occupying prominent positions in every walk in life. The schools are in a high state of efficiency. Under the capable and energetic management of the principal, Rev. E. H. Brandt, they are doing better work than ever.

The public closing took place on the 23rd of April, the first under the new conditions, and the friends of the institution mustered in force. Everything passed off most happily, and the greatest satisfaction was felt and expressed at the state of matters. New features of work have been introduced with the happiest results. The principal reports an attendance of 220 pupils, 140 young men and boys, and 80 girls—one-half from Roman Catholic homes. They come from all over the province of Quebec. A most excellent Christian spirit prevailed among the pupils. The discipline is well nigh perfect, and the religious life of the school is beautiful to behold. Two communions were held during the session, and 35 of the pupils professed faith in Christ, 26 of them being Roman Catholics. The pupils are the missionaries. Knowing the Gospel themselves, they want others to know it as they know it. The Saturday before closing day, four of them went out to do co portage work, two going east, and two west. They sold seventeen New Testaments, and were kindly received. They carry the Gospel home with them in their hearts and lives. They sing their beautiful hymns. They tell the story of what they have seen and heard and learned. Unconsciously to them-

selves it comes out in so many ways they have been to Pointe aux Trembles, and others seeing what it has done for them, want to go too. In that way there is no lack of applicants. Thus the good seed is sown broadcast. Thus the heaven is at work, and it will yet leave the whole lump.

#### Statistics.

There are 72 preaching stations, 930 families, 1,220 communicants, added during the year 1911, removed 65, infants baptized 76, adults 30, attending Sunday school 1,095, Protestant children 1,842, attending from the mission 138, Roman Catholics who became Protestants 151. The churches number 30. The number of Roman Catholic families visited 11,642, Protestant families visited 3,542. The number attending day school 734, of which 449 were Roman Catholics. The fields contributed \$5,829, of which \$3,178 were for salaries and \$1,066 for missionary and benevolent objects. The 17 mission schools contributed \$3,788, making a total from fields and schools of \$9,567, an advance over any previous year from that source.

#### The State of the Funds.

The receipts of the year are as follows:

French Evangelization, ordinary fund.....	\$18,584.85
Pointe aux Trembles, ordinary fund.....	15,758.12
Pointe aux Trembles, building fund.....	16,564.06
Pointe aux Trembles, furnishing fund.....	7,950.34
Total.....	\$58,857.37

While it is gratifying, therefore, that a larger amount has been raised for the mission than in any previous year in its history, the board has to report deficits amounting in the aggregate to \$5,690.21. This was met from the reserve fund and then there is the debt on the building fund of \$15,000. That is a burden so long as it remains. All this gives the board great anxiety. The special effort of the past two years has no doubt affected the giving to the ordinary work. That was to be expected. We thank the friends for what they have already given, and we confidently appeal to them for their continued interest, so that the indebtedness may not only be wiped out, but also that we may be in a position to assume our larger responsibilities. The door of opportunities was never wider open than to-day, and we want to enter in and occupy. Friends of the mission, we ask of you three things: Your interest, your prayers, your givings. We feel we are doing not only a Christian but a patriotic work. We are often called upon through the press, English as well as French, to abandon the work, and turn over the funds to a better purpose. But French evangelization has its mission in the land, and it would be nothing short of a calamity if the mission should cease to be a vital spiritual force. A struggle is on, and we are face to face with it, not only here in Quebec, but all over the broad land, and the call to the church, east and west, is to rally to the conflict.

A. J. MOWATT.

Montreal, P.Q., July 21, 1908.

#### "GEE! IT WAS HEAVENLY."

The above expression heard by the writer at the close of Mr. — organ recital, though not classical, seemed to typify the general feeling of the delighted audience as it dispersed from — church on Tuesday evening.

I clip the foregoing from a respectable local newspaper of the province of Ontario. If one will remember that "Gee" is the first letter of "God," the excerpt bears its own comment.

ULSTER PAT.

Rev. James Byers, formerly of Williamsburg, Pa., will occupy the pulpit of Erskine church next Sunday.