

at the present day, can look back to the time when they preached their maiden sermon under its auspices, and read their first formal report before it. And after completing his theological course, if one institution connected with the college occupies a larger share in the affections of the young minister than another, it is the Missionary Society. Founded in 1845, it is only one year younger than the college of which it is so important an auxiliary, and, like that institution, beginning in a very humble way, under the blessing of God it increased rapidly in numbers and influence until, in the year 1850, it embraced fifty members and was in possession of an overflowing treasury; and at the present day, that membership has increased to upwards of one hundred, and its influence has been felt throughout the length and breadth of the land. From its earliest days, the work of the Society has been carried on with great zeal and encouraging prosperity. At that time, during the college session, monthly meetings were regularly held, at each of which an essay on some missionary subject was read by one of its members and discussed by the others, and missionary intelligence from all parts of the world was submitted for the encouragement and edification of the Society. In this respect the Society has, during the last few years, taken a backward step; since, on account of its extended work, the pressure of business has crowded out this most interesting part of the programme until it has become almost forgotten; but an effort which promises to be successful is now being made to revive this old and profitable custom.

The annual public meeting of the Society also, which was formerly held about the commencement of the college session, but which has for many years been discontinued, is dur-

ing the present year to be revived in the form of a public missionary meeting; and, although the element of refreshments which marked some of these earlier gatherings will be wanting, yet we hope the meeting will not be any the less interesting on that account.

In former times, mission work in the city seems to have been carried on with far more vigor than at present. Perhaps there was more need for such work at that time than there is now. If so, the members of the Society did not shrink from the task, for we find that in the course of one session no less than four hundred and ninety-seven tracts were distributed fortnightly, a corresponding number of families visited, and ten prayer-meetings sustained, with an average attendance of one hundred and forty-seven. The Society, while always endeavoring to create and cherish a missionary spirit amongst its members, began its career with the grand object of sending the Gospel to the French Roman Catholics of Canada, as the following resolution passed at an early stage of the Society's existence will show:—"The funds of this Society shall be specially employed in aiding the work of Evangelization among the French Canadian population."

To accomplish this object, colporteurs and missionaries were sent to the most promising places to labor amongst this people.

In 1851 a mission school was started at Metis, in the Province of Quebec, and a suitable building for school purposes was erected by the Society.

At first, the instruction imparted here was confined to the children of the French Canadian Roman Catholics, but afterwards Protestant children were also admitted. The gentlemen in charge of this school were expected to do mission work as well as teach.