

another meeting of Synod, and yet only a few of our congregations have made collections. We cannot hope that those who have neglected the collections have remembered the recommendation for prayer. A few congregations have done well—a few very well—but many have done nothing at all. The result is that instead of having a surplus to meet farther calls, we are yet in debt for part of last year's expenditure.

There must surely be some reason for the coldness of so many, and whatever that reason may be it ought to come out. We are far from doing ourselves credit in this matter. We have met with some who are quite despondent as to the results of missions to Roman Catholics. It is scarcely possible that those who indulge such impressions should have kept themselves posted in the news of the Church. No one who is acquainted with the facts will question that as a rule missions among Roman Catholics have been quite as successful as any other missions. Mark, for instance, the wonderful results arising from Colportage and Bible circulation in Italy and Spain within the last few years. Is it not as if a nation was born in a day? Witness also the harvest gathered by the French Canadian Missionary Society, and the hundreds brought out from Romanism by the labors of Mr. Chiniquy. These are apparent results which are abundantly encouraging. But who can precisely reckon the results of missionary labor anywhere? It is well when converts fearlessly and intelligently avow their change of sentiments and prove their sincerity by a consistent life.—But in scattering the bread of life among the hungering multitude we are not debarred the hope that many feed savingly upon the incorruptible word, who shall abide among the hidden ones until that day when God shall count his jewels. None but the faint-hearted or mis-informed will withhold their sympathies or help from missions among Roman Catholics on the ground of their unfruitfulness.

It is true that in Ireland such missions have often yielded but meagre fruits. Ample explanation of that fact is furnished, however, by the exceptional relations which

Protestantism and Romanism bore towards each other in that country. Protestantism was viewed by the Irish Romanist simply as the religion of the hated Saxon oppressor. A crafty priesthood could readily turn this impression to account in teaching Roman Catholics to treat the evangelistic efforts of the conqueror with contempt.—Wherever this powerful and universally prevalent prejudice was broken, Protestant missions in Ireland, as elsewhere, yielded abundant fruit. It is possible for us to persuade the kindly simple minded Acadian that we are his friends—that we have no selfish end to serve in offering him the Bible. If we succeed in this he will receive it, and to him as to us it will point the way to life and immortality.

It might possibly be advantageous to change the mode of managing this mission. It is possible that a lack of confidence in the management may be at the bottom of the indifference with which many regard it. At present it is managed by a scattered committee, whose members can seldom meet for consultation, and whose facilities for collecting needful information are very inadequate. They have done the best they could under the circumstances. But it is not very agreeable to watch over a languishing interest. They would doubtless rejoice if any advantageous change could be made. There are two changes, either of which might be an improvement.

1. The management of the mission might be vested in the Home Mission Board, which could bring a larger measure of counsel and co-operation to bear upon its operations than any scattered committee like the present could possibly do. The Board could obtain qualified agents from the same source from which the committee has so far obtained them, and the prosecution of the mission is really but a part of the Church's Home Mission work.

2. The management of the mission might be transferred to the French Canadian Missionary Society, whose enlarged experience would enable them to carry on the work much more economically, and perhaps more successfully, than it has hitherto been done. We would of course