

Without a Missionary. "Among the mines north of Lake Superior," says a missionary, "I was called upon last summer to undertake work in Oliver Township and Slate River Valley. No Presbyterian missionary had visited these stations during the past three years, although there were forty Presbyterian families, and about a dozen other families who were formerly Presbyterians. Owing to the slowness of our church in establishing a mission there they had joined another denomination.

"Service was held every Sabbath, at which much spiritual interest was manifested. Many old men and women, whose hearts in other days had been touched, rejoiced to enjoy the Presbyterian service once more.

"This field is being rapidly settled from the older parts of Ontario, and will, probably, be one of the finest districts in Northern Ontario. Its situation is magnificent, being at the head of the great Lake system. It is watered by many lovely streams, and surrounded by massive hills, which can be seen from almost any part of the fertile valley which they inclose.

"When we consider the number of Presbyterian families, the nature of the country, the prospect of a rapid influx of population, and the anxiety of the people for religious services, we must hope that the Church will take immediate steps to provide them with permanent supply."

INCIDENTS OF FRENCH WORK.

FROM THE REPORTS OF MISSIONARIES, ETC.

"A young girl, French Roman Catholic, living in the employ of Mr. G——, a Protestant, had bought a Bible from Mr. Bonenfant about two months ago, and during her spare time had been reading it to the best of her ability.

"Having occasion to pass that way, I called, and found that she still had it, in spite of the threats of friends and the priest. This good man had charged his people that whoever had bought books from these men going through were either to burn them or bring them to him. Some obeyed, but we do not yet know the extent of the conflagration.

"I explained to her some of the truths of the Gospel as well as I could, trying to keep before her mind the necessity of having Christ as a personal Saviour.

"I saw her again some weeks after. Although she is in the care of a kind Christian family, who do what they can to instruct her, she hesitates about becoming a Protestant, fearing the persecutions of her relatives and others. However, she will no doubt do so in time. Her faith has been shaken in the R. C. system, through the consistent living of the G—— family. She now believes that Protestants live right, and that the priests do not tell the truth when they say Protestants are a people of no religion.

"At B—— I was going about from house to house as usual, when a man asked me what kind of books I was selling. I told him, and after answering some questions which he asked me about my employers, their motives for sending me, etc., he said very excitedly, 'I'm very curious to know what is in that book. Would the cure approve it? When do you leave? I'll see the cure and ask him. If he will let us have it, I'll buy one.' It is needless to say that my man never turned up.

"In a village I found a man and wife, named L——, where I was heartily welcomed to read the Scriptures. This done, I knelt and they with me. On rising, the woman said, 'That's a beautiful prayer; such visits do good; may the Lord give you success.' I left her a Gospel, for which she thanked me.

"I have been well received in the families for several weeks past. The pastoral letters and political mandements of the priests have greatly shaken the power of Rome.

"A mother who heard me speak of Jesus Christ in a family where I am always welcome asked me to go and speak to her dying son.

"Another woman said to me quite recently, 'My husband does not like to hear anything said of the church nor of religion, and he no longer believes in God nor the saints, since the way in which the priest spoke of politics, and my three sons are following his example.'

"The religious situation is critical. I pray the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers. The fields are white unto the harvest."

I spoke about the Gospel during the month of August in 311 R. C. families. In 233 of these I was permitted to read the Scriptures, but only 62 allowed me to pray with them. I prayed chiefly for what they needed the most, to accept the Gospel's teaching, to know and accept the free and only salvation in Christ.

I had a good little meeting on my last visit to C——. One family that was at first afraid of the Gospel, on account of what they had heard from their priest, were, after a while, glad to listen, and promised me to study the New Testament they bought from me.

Cottage meetings do good in K——. At our first meeting 26 were present, and "do come again" was the parting word from all. As far as we can see, the French population is not well pleased with the priests and their teachings. Six heads of families came to Mrs. V—— asking her to receive their children into her home and become their teacher, saying, "Our school is a fraud; children there get nothing." On Sabbath the priest told these parents that they must submit to the rules of the Church, and, of course, they sent their children to the R. C. school, but people are on the eve of coming out *en masse*. In the meantime, a little here and there is all we can do.