

One hundred and forty three pupils coming from the various parts of the country have this session been in attendance at our Schools. Ninety-six were boys, and forty-seven girls, most of them between 15 and 18 years of age. About one-third of them never before had the advantage of going to school, and seventy of them belong to parents who still adhere to the errors of the Church of Rome. In the case of many of them, their bigotry and prejudices were equal to their ignorance.

Some of them knew nothing about God, Jesus or the Bible; and religion for them consisted simply in attending mass, reciting their beads and going to confession. For these the form is all and the heart or the mind have nothing to do with religion, the priest being the only one they consider responsible in matters of faith.

They enter in our Schools as in a new world and when they have passed six months under the daily training in the Holy Scriptures they have generally made such progress that their friends are surprised and feel proud at the great change which has taken place in their children.

The conduct of the pupils has been good and nothing could surpass their desire to make progress, many of them complaining that they had not enough time for studying, though they rise at half-past five in the morning and retire only at nine at night.

We would like very much to send to all the supporters of pupils specimens of their progress in the form of a letter, but some of those who did not know their alphabet last Fall do not feel yet prepared to express their gratitude to their benefactors in a letter of their own and they request me to present you with the expression of their deep thankfulness.

Besides the ordinary branches of study the pupils have received every day a Bible Lesson bearing on the Sacred History, the life of Jesus, the Shorter Catechism in French, and the main points of controversy with the Church of Rome.

Fifteen of our young men and women, after a consistent profession of faith, have recently been admitted into the fellowship of the Church, so that now there are sixty of this session's pupils who are communicants.

Twelve of our older pupils have asked for missionary work for the summer, and nine of these are going to be employed as colporters and teachers. Twelve of our young men are studying with a view to the ministry of the Church, and several young girls to become missionary teachers.

To all these encouragements the Lord has

just added another, the good news that our Girls' School is going to be enlarged and repaired for the coming session. This fills our hearts with gratitude towards God and the generous and indefatigable friends of this good cause. Though the money required for this is not yet all received we have faith to believe that it will all be got before the work is completed.

The progress of the work, the increasing interest of the Church and the improvement in the dispositions of our Roman Catholic countrymen strengthen our hope that the light of a glorious day will soon shine upon this Province and will gladden the heart of many a servant of the Master.

J. BOURGAIN, Principal.

P. S.—Contributions and scholarships should be forwarded to

REV. DR. WARDEN,
198 St. James Street,
Montreal.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

They tell us there is no more creator, only cosmic dust. Who made the dust? There is only protoplasm, indeed. Who made protoplasm? They tell us of evolution from dust to monkey and then to man; but all the scientists have never found the missing link. The simple gospel of the humble son of a carpenter, preached by twelve fishermen, has survived the centuries and outlives all other philosophies of eighteen hundred years. I am not versed in the terminology of the philosophies. I believe them to be of little use to reach the hearts and to influence the actions of simple men. There is no liberty in it that lasts, and does not recognize the Bible. What is the object of all theology? It is to reach the human heart and to control the actions of men as they are. How many of us can even understand what the philosopher says?

You might take the whole Stock Exchange and read Kant to them, and it would be utterly incomprehensible to them. Not so with the teachings of the Golden Rule. . . . They tell us God must disappear; that praying is begging; that the Holy Communion is cannibalism. When did such a religion send out a missionary? When you show me a colony of ten thousand people who have come to live decently by its teachings, I may believe it. But I say now that the Christian faith of my mother is good enough for me. If we believe this faith what harm? If we disbelieve it, and thereby do wrong, what of our future?—*From Orations and After-dinner Speeches of Chauncy M. Depew.*