

GRANDE-LIGNE.

REV. M. B. PARENT, M.A., *Pastor.*

The happiest day of the whole year with us was certainly the 5th of March last, when, before a large gathering composed of the school, the congregation, strangers, some Roman Catholics, (among them two young soldiers from the military school at St. Johns), eleven candidates were baptized. And in the evening, as the Lord's Supper was celebrated, more than sixty persons were sitting at the Communion Table. The reader of our report who is a member of a large city church may think this very small, but it is large to those who have seen the small beginning.

The difficulty among our Roman Catholic neighbors with regard to the establishment of a new parish is still unsettled. And yet a splendid parsonage and a handsome church are being erected. Before these are paid for a great many words will be said and perhaps telling resolutions made. Meanwhile we find our Protestants quite ready to seize any opportunity of speaking or giving a New Testament or a Maskinongé pamphlet to any who are at all disposed to hear or receive any information.

Although the gospel has been preached a long time in this place, and everybody has had a chance to hear it, and nearly everyone has heard it and must have felt its influence, yet we find at a few steps from our door the same bigotry, the same spirit of persecution, that you see in the darkest spots of this dark province. A few months ago a Protestant of over eighty years of age came to visit and perhaps to die at his neice's here in Grande Ligne. Taking advantage of his weakness she tried to compel him to receive the priest, and went so far as to threaten to throw him out of doors if he did not consent to give in and prepare to die a Catholic. Hearing about this our people took him out of that place and paid his board in a Protestant family, until they were able to send him to the States to some of his relatives and friends.

In the erection of this new Parish, called St. Blaise, a petition was circulated without our knowledge, and the name of the Post Office at the Station was changed from Grande Ligne to St. Blaise. Petitions have since been sent to the Government to provide a new Post Office called Grande Ligne, at the cross roads near the school