

to read the bible. This exercise he continued, till the truth gradually broke in upon his mind. From the time he received the first glimmerings of Divine knowledge, he studied, with intense application, the word of God, and ultimately acquired a knowledge of the scriptures that was truly surprising, considering the short time he had devoted himself to their study. The knowledge of the truth was not in him without its practical influence: he became more humble and gentle in his manners, more spiritual in his views and feelings, and zealous for the extension of the knowledge of the revealed word of God, among the French Canadians.

Seeing the man who had been the instrument of Divine grace in leading him to "a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus," occupying a sacred office in the Presbyterian Church of Canada, he formed a strong desire to become, with him, a fellow-worker, in turning the ignorant from darkness to light, and to be employed in any department of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ that in the mean time Providence might open up to him, in the hope that ultimately he might be deemed worthy "to have committed to his trust the glorious gospel of the blessed God." With this view he addressed a letter to the Synod, through a member of the Committee, expressing his desire to be permitted to enter on preparatory studies for the work of the ministry. The letter was forwarded to the Commission, at their meeting in February last.

Although it may be admitted that there was a want of deliberation and maturity of thought in Mr. Thirion's application, it must be confessed that there was enough to encourage the hope that after the ardour characteristic of a young convert had somewhat subsided, deep and settled views of the sacredness and importance of the Christian ministry might be the result. But the blossoms, though fair, were not ripened into fruit. The Christian character was not fully matured, and from causes that yet remain to be explained, Mr. Thirion abruptly left Montreal, and went to the United States. We may humbly hope, however, that the knowledge of God's word, which he acquired in Montreal, may be abundantly blessed unto himself, and that