

evening they had their pul'ic meeting, with "Big Tom" for a chairman, who, by the way, is a good man and true, but oh, so slow in getting up to speak, and in speaking exceedingly slow. Just imagine a great tall man getting up an inch at a time, and waiting between the inches. But he got all the way up at last, and spoke, I presume, very sensibly, which is more than many a white man does who gets up with less hesitancy.

We cannot make room for the account given of the rest of the missions, but conclude with an extract showing the hardships endured:—"The night was the coldest I had ever experienced, and when we set off next morning before sunrise to cross the lake, a distance of about forty miles, it is said, with wind sharp ahead, neither present experience nor future prospects for that day were very pleasing. The Indians with me froze cheeks and ears in a general way, but said very little about it, while I felt the cold very much with all my mummy-like wrappings, till finally I had to get out and run to keep my feet from freezing. The thermometer at the fort was useless in such intense cold. I have no doubt it *should* have gone down to fifty degrees below zero. I mention this to show under what circumstances of discomfort and peril our devoted missionaries are *often placed*.

AMONG THE FRENCH CANADIANS.

The thirty-sixth annual report of the French Canadian Missionary Society is now before us. It is full of interesting facts.

The report says that "The missionaries have not met with that bitter persecution from the people that they have sometimes encountered, and notwithstanding the firm and continued opposition of the priesthood, they have

generally been civilly treated, even at times gladly welcomed and invited to converse on religious subjects, or to read a portion of Scripture to eager listeners. Many of the people express their surprise that they are forbidden by their church to read a book which commends itself to them.

One marked feature among the French Canadians during the past year has been their strong desire to have their children educated, and educated at Protestant schools. A much larger number than usual have applied for admission at Pointe-aux-Trembles, and the Principal of that institution in his last monthly report, remarks that if the Society could furnish accomodation and supply teachers, five or six hundred French Canadian children would attend during the coming year.

COLPORTAGE.

It is a work of great trial to the Colporteurs, owing not only to physical difficulties from extremes of cold in winter and heat in summer, from indifferent fare and lodging, from roads sometimes almost impassible, but from the power of the priests, greater perhaps than in any other country, in preventing the reception of the Word of God. To secure this end, they poison the minds of the people by representing it as only fitted to deceive them and lose their souls—a book to be torn up with contempt and burnt. If such treatment is not enough to prevent its purchase, then follow virulent persecution and threats of spiritual penalties, which the Romish clergy know so well to employ in crushing out the light of the Gospel. Add to all this the illiterate state and poverty of the people, and it will be realized that Colportage in this Province is a work of difficulty. Still it must be carried on if the French Canadians are to be made intelligent believers of the Gospel, for while the Word of God teaches, and every one engaged in