

The Missionary Record.

ISSUED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

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No. 2.

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EXTRACTS FROM CONSTITUTION.

- II. The operations of this Society shall embrace—the employment of ministers, teachers, book-vendors, and scripture-readers, (whose native language is French if possible)—the establishment and support of schools, and places of worship,—and the distribution of the Holy Scriptures, and such publications as may be requisite in accomplishing the objects of the Society.
- III. No person shall be admitted or continued a Minister, Teacher, Agent, Trustee, or Office-bearer, under any name, in connexion with this Society, whose religious sentiments are not decidedly in accordance with the great evangelical doctrines of the Protestant Faith; namely, the fallen and totally depraved condition of human nature; the supreme divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ; the sacrificial character and design of the Saviour's death; his deity, personality, and saving influence of the Holy Spirit; justification by faith alone, through the atoning merits and all prevalent intercession of the Son of God; the necessity of holiness of heart and life as produced and maintained by the indwelling Spirit of God; and the endless duration of future rewards and punishments.
- The above summary of doctrine shall equally apply to all Books and Tracts distributed by the agents of this Society.
- IV. This Society shall maintain an entire absence of a sectarian spirit in the choice of its agents, the application of its funds, and the management of its concerns. In the selection of its Agents, there shall be alone consulted their religious and intellectual fitness for promoting the grand object in view, namely, the bringing of souls into the Kingdom of God, and building them on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.
- V. The instructions to be given to missionaries and other agents of this Society shall be:—First, that in all their intercourse with the French Canadians they abstain as much as possible from controversy on the errors of the Romish church, and that they seek to promote their religious instruction and salvation, by plainly and affectionately preaching and enforcing the great doctrines of evangelical religion as stated above; as it is believed, that, in this case, the declaration of "the truth as it is in Jesus," will prove the best means of refuting error.—Secondly, that, as it appears important to the success of this Christian enterprise, to secure, as much as possible, unanimity and uniformity in its proceedings and operations, it also be required of all the agents of the Society, to abstain from urging their own peculiar denominational views as to doctrine or church government; and to require only as conditions of church membership, a profession of the Protestant Faith as held by this Society, (and set forth in Art. 3rd of this Constitution,) accompanied by suitable and satisfactory evidences of true piety in the candidate.

FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY.

I give and bequeath to the "French Canadian Missionary Society," instituted at Montreal on the 8th April, 1839, the sum of _____ pounds currency, of the Province of Canada, for the purpose of the said institution, for which legacy the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge to the Executors.

The form of a Bequest, agreeably to the laws of Great Britain and Ireland, will be found in the Annual Reports of most of the Religious Institutions of those countries.

Contributions in clothing, woollen and cotton stuffs, sheets, blankets, and quilts, stockings, wool and yarn, leather, flour, grain, butter, salted provisions, &c., are respectfully solicited from our friends in the country; and store-keepers, millers, and persons in central positions are invited to open depots for these articles, which can be sent forward either during sleighing, or at the opening of the navigation, to Mr. George Bent, Express Office, St. Paul Street; or left at Mrs. Addy's, St. Lawrence Suburbs. Donations in this shape are as available as in money.

STATIONS OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE SOCIETY, JUNE, 1848.

Rev. J. E. Tanner, Director Pointe aux Trembles Educational Institute.
Mrs. Tanner, do. do. Female School.
Rev. F. Doudiet, Pastor Belle Rivière, Rivière Cachée, Hawkesbury, and Pays Fin.
Mrs. Doudiet, Teacher Girls School, Belle Rivière.
Rev. Philippe Wolf, Montreal.
Jean Vernier, Second Director and Teacher, Pointe aux Trembles Institute. Mad. Vernier.
D. Amaron, Colporteur, Ramsay, Industry, and surrounding country.
Mrs. Amaron, partly employed in teaching.
J. Vessot, Colporteur Rivière Cachée, St. Therese, and surrounding country.
Mrs. Vessot, partly employed in teaching.
A. Moret, Colporteur, St. Andrews, East Hawkesbury, and surrounding country.
A. Solandt, Colporteur, Quebec, L'Islet, and Inverness.
L. Marie, Colporteur, Montreal and vicinity.
Mr. Gobeille, Assistant Teacher, Pointe aux Trembles Institute.

BRIEF RECORD OF THE FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The files of the Occasional Paper and Record in which the History of this Society is chronicled having become exhausted, we propose to give our readers a chronological sketch of the history of the French Canadian Mission. There are many now taking an interest in the work, who are very imperfectly acquainted with its rise and progress. For their information, as well as for the purpose of gratefully recounting the steps of that good way by which the Lord has led us, we submit the following facts:—

1839.—In this year the Society was founded. The committee was composed of Evangelical Christians of all denominations in Montreal, and a deputation was sent to Europe, with the view of procuring missionaries and colporteurs from Geneva and the south of France. The Rev. William Taylor and James Court, Esq., formed the deputation.

1840.—The deputation returned and reported success. In the West of Scotland they met with encouragement and support; from Glasgow and Greenock, in particular, valuable assistance was received. Pursuing their way through London and Paris, they arrived safely at Geneva. There their efforts were blessed with success: A committee was formed of leading men in the churches of Geneva and Lausanne for the purpose of engaging and sending out persons qualified for the Canadian mission. In the south of France similar arrangements were made. Four colporteurs (viz., Amaron, Moret, Prevost, and Vessot) arrived at Montreal in the course of the year, and operations were begun at Petit Brûlé and Belle Rivière. At the latter place, a mission-house of a temporary character was obtained.

1841.—Additional labourers arrived, among whom were the Rev. J. E. Tanner and Mrs. Tanner; they were stationed at St. Therese. At this village, as well as at Belle Rivière, L'Assomption, and other places, public worship on the Sabbath was conducted by Mr. Tanner, who also superintended the labours of the colporteurs. Fruits of the work began to appear: at St. Therese ten persons quitted the church of Rome. Mr. and Mrs. Amaron commenced a small school at Belle Rivière. In this year, the Ladies' French Canadian Missionary Society was formed at Montreal, which has proved a most efficient auxiliary.

1842.—The operations of the mission steadily progressed. The Society employed one ordained missionary, and seven agents, male and female—stationed at St. Therese, Belle Rivière, and Industry Village. It was found that seventeen adults had renounced Popery, six of whom were professedly converted and received into church fellowship. In addition to these, about twenty children and young persons were rescued from Rome.

Mr. Sellier joined the Society, and took charge of the school above mentioned; his labours, until his death, in less than a year after, were much blessed.

The Rev. Mr. Tanner held a public discussion with a number of Jesuits and priests, at St. Elizabeth. He succeeded in proving that the church of Rome suppresses the second commandment.

Mr. Tanner and Mr. Court undertook in the fall of the year a tour on behalf of the Society, to Western Canada, where they were well received.

1843.—The Rev. Mr. Tanner was stationed in Montreal, where Mrs. Tanner opened a school for the instruction of young ladies in French. The other stations continued to be occupied by the colporteurs, who also travelled through the neighbouring parishes.

The principal event in the history of the Society, during this year, was the resolution to establish an educational institute; being an extension of the school previously commenced.

The mission premises at Belle Rivière, previously rented, together with the farm on which they stood, were purchased by the committee. This property the Ladies' Society undertook to pay for, and in redemption of their pledge have paid about £400.

With the object of procuring from Europe, additional labourers qualified to conduct this branch of the Society's operations, the Rev. Mr. Tanner sailed for London, thence to proceed to Switzerland. In both places he was well received and ably assisted.

1844.—The Rev. Mr. Tanner returned from Geneva with a valuable accession of labourers, among whom were the Rev. F. Doudiet and wife, who were now stationed at St. Therese, where twenty converts had already been enrolled in church fellowship. The educational institute at Belle Rivière was opened under the direction of Mr. Vernier, a licentiate teacher of the academy of Paris; and at the close of the year, twenty-seven French Canadian youths had been received as pupils. In addition to the missionaries, above named, Mr. Solandt and Mr. Marie arrived with Mr. Tanner.

The committee were now led to contemplate the necessity of erecting suitable mission buildings at Belle Rivière.

The Society at this time occupied four stations, and employed, two ordained missionaries, one teacher, and six Colporteurs; numbering, along with their wives, fifteen persons in all.

1845.—The recording secretary, Mr. Court, visited Great Britain and the Continent, where he met with much success on behalf of the Society. Auxiliary committees were formed in various places, and very liberal contributions were made towards the erection of suitable buildings for the mission. In Montreal, about £700 were subscribed at the annual meeting for the same object.

The Rev. Mr. Tanner, and Mr. John Dougall, made a tour through western Canada and part of the adjoining States, on behalf of the Society. The Rev. Messrs Wilkes and Tanner visited New York and New England on a similar mission.

The Rev. Philippe Wolf joined the Society; this missionary continues to be supported by the Foreign Evangelical Society of New York.

Mrs. Tanner commenced a school for French Canadian girls, which has since prospered greatly under her judicious management.

Up to the close of this year, 44 pupils in all had been received at the Belle Rivière Institute. It was now decided to establish the permanent institution at Pointe aux Trembles, on the north bank of the St. Lawrence, ten miles below Montreal, where a farm of 100 acres of excellent land was purchased by the Committee.

At the close of this year it was believed, that through the labours of the Society, thirty-four French Canadians had been converted to Christ—while about eighty more, including young persons, had been rescued from the influence of Rome.

At the request of Christian friends at Amherstburgh, Mr. Moret was sent to the Western District, where he laboured with great encouragement during the winter.

1846.—The missionaries and colporteurs now occupied six stations, besides visiting many other places. The distribution of the Scriptures with religious books and tracts in French, was carried on with increased success.

The main feature in the history of the Society during the year, was the greater prominence given to its educational efforts. Fifty pupils, up to this date, had received instruction in the Belle Rivière Institute; ten of whom were solemnly added to the visible church and admitted to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. On the 5th November, the new Institute at Pointe aux Trembles was opened. This building has accommodations for 130 pupils. The Rev. J. E. Tanner is principal director of the institution, and Mr. Jean Vernier second director and teacher. The cost of the building, farm, &c., was upwards of £3000; of which £1612 is still unpaid.

On the removal of the institute from Belle Rivière, the Rev. F. Doudiet went to that station; from which place, however, he visits regularly the little flock at St. Therese, and several other stations.

Quebec, L'Islet, and Inverness having been visited several times by the colporteurs, the encouragement was deemed sufficient to require a resident missionary, Mr. Solandt, colporteur, was therefore sent to those important fields of labour.

1847.—The Rev. Mr. Doudiet made a tour through western Canada, on behalf of the Society, with satisfactory results.

In this year, the work was vigorously carried on by the preaching of the word, and by colportage; but it is in the educational department that success has been most apparent. In the Pointe aux Trembles Institute, there were at the close of the year, sixty pupils, of whom fifty-two were French Canadians. In the girls' Institute, at the same place, conducted by Mrs. Tanner, twenty-two pupils had been received, and many applications for admission were refused for want of room to accommodate them.

It ought not to be omitted that the Anniversary meetings of the Society have steadily increased in interest and public favour. At first the enterprise was distrusted or condemned by very many influential Protestants; and it was with some surprise at their own courage that a few met together for the purpose of grappling with Popery in this land of superstition and idolatry; but a few years have sufficed to change the aspect of affairs, and now the Annual meeting of this Society is one of the best attended and most enthusiastic of all the religious Anniversaries. We may add that almost as great a change has taken place in the department of the Canadians, in the District of Montreal, towards the Missionaries and Colporteurs.

Thus, by the good hand of the Lord upon us, we have arrived at the year 1848. God forbid, that after so many tokens of His loving-kindness, we should now falter or fall back!

VISIT TO THE MISSION STATIONS.

The committee having appointed the undersigned a deputation to visit the mission stations, we have the honour to report,

That we proceeded to Pointe aux Trembles on the ice, and found the Institution in a satisfactory state. The number of pupils was large, (about 60) and they were, to all appearance, diligently improving their time. The routine of a day's duties in winter, is as follows:—

FIRST CLASS.—From half-past six to breakfast time, the first class learn algebra.

From nine to ten, a.m., they learn French spelling, reading, composition, and pronunciation, by a very simple method, viz: the teacher or a monitor reads very slowly and distinctly a passage out of some book; each pupil writing down upon his slate the words as they are spoken. After this is completed, the teacher or monitor spells every word, and the boys correct their spelling, punctuation, &c. The teacher afterwards examines if the writing be correct, and in the afternoon each copies his corrected theme carefully into his copy book.

From ten to twelve, geometry and arithmetic.

From six to seven in the evening, grammar.

SECOND CLASS.—The second class studies geography from nine to ten, a.m.; theme and arithmetic, ten to twelve; and grammar from six to seven, p.m. Occasionally, the pupils have lessons in vocal music.

The remainder of the twenty-four hours is taken up with meals, worship, work, and rest; but the primary object continually kept in view, is to enlighten their minds in the knowledge of the Scriptures, and bring them to Christ. The dining-room is a most interesting sight at meal time, being characterized by great order and propriety of deportment.

We also found the girls' school in a satisfactory state, so far as the want of proper accommodations would permit.

From Pointe aux Trembles we crossed the country to St. Lin, a parish on the Achigan river, about two leagues below New Glasgow, in order to see a family converted from Romanism through the instru-