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Toronto, July 27, 1893.

French Evangelization.

THE appeal of the Board of French Evangelization, for funds, is now before the Church. A collection will be made on Sabbath next and it is earnestly hoped a liberal response will be made. The cause is one which ought to command the liberality of the Church as a whole, and every congregation and mission station should return the largest possible contribution to the Board. Fully \$10,000 is needed at once to meet salaries and repairs to the schools. This amount should be in the hands of the treasurer without delay, but the congregational contributions should double that amount at the very least.

The importance of the work carried on by this Board it would be difficult to over-estimate. A very large problem is dealt with, and were our people to realize, as they ought to, the possibilities within their reach, there can be but one opinion as to the interest they would manifest in spreading the good news among their French-Canadian fellow-citizens.

There are those who believe the diverse races of our country can only be fused into national homogeneity by passing through the alembic of war, that patriotism needs a baptism of blood. But there is a better way than the sword. The Gospel of peace is a mightier factor in civilization than the power of armed hosts. In its freeness and fulness it will bring the segregated populations of our country together to see eye to eye, to place the public good, as a whole, above sectional strife and sectarian jealousies. To win Quebec to the Gospel would be to dispel the clouds that hover on the national horizon of Canada. And it can be won. Already there are hopeful signs of an awakening. The leaven is working slowly, as it should work. When the whole lump is leavened the work of generations to come will have been accomplished. Our duty is to persevere, to draw encouragement from every gleam of sunshine, from every rift in the sky. But above all it is our duty to work, and this we can effectually do by generous contributions next Sabbath Day.

The work of French evangelization is surrounded by peculiar difficulties. The Missionary can approach the Jew or the Heathen with a new Faith and can deal on very radical lines. The Roman Catholic claims the better side of our Christian religion, and while the claim is absurd, it is nevertheless true that many Protestants place Roman Catholicism on too high a plane as a system of religion, thus rendering the labour of the evangelist exceedingly

difficult. In Quebec the political ascendancy of the Church of Rome is a powerful and insidious means against evangelization. The obstacles which this advantage creates are well-nigh insurmountable and it is only the most wise and patient efforts that succeed. Yet headway is being made. The report submitted by the Board to the General Assembly, gives the following testimony to the changes noted in the province. "An encouraging and inspiring fact is the almost universal testimony of our missionaries that prejudice against themselves and their work is giving way, that a desire for knowledge is growing, and a determination openly or privately expressed to know the truth at any cost. A slowly-formed public opinion has at length confessed through the press and otherwise its want of faith in ecclesiastics, and demanded reforms in the control and management of educational and other matters. Journals that have had the courage of their convictions and criticized their spiritual leaders have been put under the ban and suffered accordingly. The decisions of canon law, although declared recently by a Canadian court to be above the law of the land, are being resisted in parishes where a few years ago would have been unquestioning obedience"; and among the results which are to be seen, the following are tabulated:—(1). A growing intelligence and appreciation on the part of the people of evangelical truth and corresponding giving way of prejudices. (2). The desire, tacit or avowed, to break away from ecclesiastical authority and domination. (3). The thousands of Roman Catholics who read proscribed literature. (4). The fifteen hundred pupils attending Protestant Mission schools. (5). Twelve thousand Canadians of French origin, who attend evangelical places of worship in Canada. (6). The twenty-five thousand French Protestants who have gone to the United States. (7). The fact that fifty-five years ago there was perhaps not a French-Canadian Protestant, to-day there is one for every sixty-seven of the French-Canadian Roman Catholic population in Canada and the United States; there being one for every hundred and two in Canada and for every thirty-two in the United States. (8). The election of French Protestants to chief municipal offices, and their holding the balance of power in three counties as was shown by the last election in this Province." These are very important signs of the times. The Church can truly thank God and take courage.

The student of Canadian history and problems will not fail to note with keen interest the change of opinion, the state of transition indicated by the above facts. Let us hope we have here the beginning of better times for the simple-minded, docile habitant, to whom the light of a pure Christianity would be as a turning from night to day. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is to-day called upon to help one of the noblest of her many good undertakings. May the hearts of the people be opened, and may the offerings they bring to God's altar be rich and thankfully be stowed.

Priest-Ridden Toronto!

BECAUSE the ministers of Toronto have preached and protested against the running of street cars on the Sabbath, the cry has been raised that the city is priest-ridden. Because reputable citizens have asked that the vote of the people be taken in municipal January instead of in August, the hot, holiday month, they are tauntingly informed that they would have the city run by "Holy Willies." Respectable people who acknowledge the power and claims of religion are, thus, warned off from municipal