

FRENCH WORK.

TO THE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE
MISSION SCHOOLS AT POINT-AUX-
TREMBLES.

We opened this session with one hundred and sixteen pupils, all French Canadians excepting five. These latter come from French Canadian settlements and speak French as well as English and are more liable to become Romanists than to remain Protestants. We have to-day one hundred and eighteen pupils, and five or six more will come in a few days, when our school will be overcrowded.

We have forty-five Roman Catholics, sixty-six Converts, and seven Protestants. One-half of our pupils have been here for one, two, or three sessions, the other half are new pupils.

Thirty-five of our scholars are professed Christians and ten of them have the ministry of the Church in view, which gives us great encouragement.

The eleven who were working as teachers and colporteurs during summer, as a general rule gave satisfaction to our Board. Four of these workers have entered the Presbyterian College this term, three have returned to our school and one is still teaching.

We begin already to reap benefit from sending our advanced pupils to the outlying districts to teach during the summer. They send pupils to us who have a fair knowledge of Bible history and who know at least how to read and write a little.

This year we have only ten per cent of our pupils in the alphabet, whereas we have usually from twenty to thirty per cent.

We would again draw your attention to the three hundred applications for admission to our schools this year, while with one hundred and twenty pupils we are crowded.

Can nothing be done to give us more accommodation? Shall we go on as heretofore and let these surplus applications go to Roman Catholic colleges and convents? Cheap board and tuition are granted in those attractive buildings to the young people who are in danger of falling under Protestant influence.

Surely Christian Protestants ought to waken up to their responsibility towards their French Canadian brethren and give as the Lord has prospered them, ever

keeping in mind this work of French Evangelization.

J. BOURGOIN,
Principal.
Pointe-aux-Trembles, Nov. 23rd, 1887.

HE ASKED A FAVOUR.

"My lads," said a captain when reading his orders to his crew on the quarter-deck, to take command of a ship, "there is one law that I am determined to make, and I shall insist upon its being kept. Indeed, it is a favor which I ask of you, and which, as a British officer, I expect to be granted by a crew of British seamen. What say you, my lads; are you willing to grant your new captain one favor?" "Ay, ay!" cried all hands; let us know what it is, sir." "Well, my lads," said the captain, "it is this; that you must allow me to swear the first oath on the ship. No man on board must swear an oath before I do. I am determined to have the privilege of swearing first on board. What say you my sons; will you grant me this favor?" The men started, and stood for a moment quite at a loss what to say. "They were taken," says one, "all a-back." "They were brought up," said another, "all standing." The captain reiterated, "Now, my fine fellows, what do you say—am I to have the privilege of swearing the first oath on board?" The appeal seemed so reasonable, and the manner of the captain so kind and prepossessing, that a general burst from the ship's company announced, "Ay, ay, sir!" with their accustomed three cheers. The effect was good, and swearing was almost wholly abolished on the ship.

There are certainly some places where prohibition does prohibit. A correspondent of the *Christian Instructor* writes from Cedar Rapids, Iowa:—"Cedar Rapids has a population of 20,000 and not a single open saloon. There are, no doubt, places where intoxicants are sold, but they are secret places known only to the initiated. Does it decrease crime? At the opening of the last term of Linn County Court (in which Cedar Rapids is situated) there was not a single prisoner in the jail and not one in the city prison, and the police records show the number of arrests to have fallen off 50 per cent. within the last six months, or since the law was strictly enforced.—Sel.