

have thus heard those words, "which are Spirit and which are life," John vi., 63, who must otherwise have lived and died without ever having heard them; because there are still but few so well versed in English as to understand a book when read to them in that tongue, and the plainest chapter in the New Testament contains so many words that they do not understand, that obscurity involves the whole, except when they hear it in Micmac. The whole New Testament has been now translated into their language, and the following books have been printed, viz.: Matthew, Luke, John, and Acts, with Genesis, Exodus and Psalms, of the Old Testament. Several Gospel Tracts have also been published in Micmac.

Our first portion of Scripture was Matthew's gospel, which was printed in the summer of 1853. No sooner was it issued, and the Indians learned, by listening to it, what a wonderful book it was, than a desire was awakened to learn to read. To get a school among them was impracticable. No pains were spared to prejudice their minds against the book and all who would attempt to put it into their possession. But "All power in heaven and in earth is in the Redeemer's hands." First, one learned to read—a feat an Indian can accomplish in an amazingly short period of time—and then another was induced to follow, so that now there are scores everywhere who can read. The portions of Scripture published in their tongue and the Gospel Tracts are everywhere cheerfully sought after, received and read, and they cannot so far be induced to give them up, or to refuse to read them, and listen to them when read by others.

But a small number have openly renounced their connection with the Romish Church; but I have reason to know that a wide-spread enquiry has been awakened among them. Of several I have good reason to hope. But I have never made it a special and direct object to induce them to "change their religion," as it is called, and especially during the past few years. I have been so dissatisfied with the Protestant churches generally, not excepting the denomination to which I belonged, and which I had always supposed was far in advance of the others in spirituality, that I have had no heart to urge the Indians, even if I believed them converted, to leave their church and join ours. I could not see the slightest advantage it would be to them. They have already plenty of opportunities to