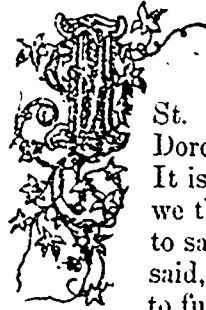


encouragement and assistance have been extended to those engaged in the work. They are too keenly alive to the advantage, even in the mere worldly point of view, of having the men brought under religious influences, to offer any hindrances to such a work, and they have invariably shewn the best feeling in this matter, the Romish priest being assisted equally with the Protestant Minister, to attend to the adherents of their respective faiths. The greater part of the expense would, therefore, be borne by them not grudgingly but cheerfully and as a duty the discharge of which they would not seek to evade. In due time also, there can be no doubt, the shantymen themselves would not be content with receiving gratuitously the services of those sent among them, but would seek to shew their obligation by contributing to the maintenance of Gospel ordinances, the benefits of which they had realized.

How then can the men be found? Of licensed and ordained Ministers it is evident, from what we have already stated, we have not a sufficient supply for the pressing wants of organized charges. Under these circumstances the Committee, of which the Rev. Mr. Gordon, Ottawa, is convener, have reported to the Synod their belief that the only possible way to meet the spiritual wants of the lumbermen is the formation of a general Protestant Mission, composed of all evangelical denominations and managed by a Central Board. The field is a very peculiar one, and must be met by means specially adapted to the ends in view. There are opportunities here presented of bringing home the message of mercy and the teachings of our Redeemer, to those who could not otherwise be reached. There is at this moment a stirring among the dry bones, an awakening among the adherents of that Church whose policy has been to stifle enquiry and to teach a blind, unreasoning faith. Many of the nominal adherents of the Church of Rome may be influenced by the teachings of our Missionaries to these hitherto neglected lumberers, who have been wandering too much as if no man cared for their souls. If there was ever a cause in which all could unite, this is one in which we may lay aside our particular views of Church government, and enter frankly, heartily and unitedly in the work so plainly set forth as one in which we are all called to engage. It seems in this instance to be clearly our duty to say, not that "I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas," but "We are of Christ."

We trust soon to hear that the Committee have made a beginning, and that by the time the season for operations has arrived there may be labourers ready to enter upon the field.



IN another column will be found a letter from M. Doudiet, the minister of St. John's Church (French), Dorchester Street, Montreal. It is a very modest letter; but we think we may be permitted to say, what M. Doudiet has not said, that he has already begun to fulfil the very high expectations formed of him, not only by the members of the Committee but by the Church at large. His presence is felt among the enquiring and liberal-minded of his countrymen, and we doubt not the most encouraging results will soon be apparent in the greatly increased attendance upon his eloquent ministrations, of all classes of the French population. M. Doudiet feels, however, the need of subalterns who shall co-operate with him. Colporteurs can gain access to houses which are closed against the professional preacher; and he thinks that if he had an agent or two who should pioneer for him, it would add greatly to the efficiency of the organization. The Synod at Hamilton expressed the same conviction through the report of its Committee, which was adopted; and it now remains for ministers and congregations throughout the country to put it in the power of the Committee to carry out the recommendation, by sending in liberal contributions to the Treasurer. Mr. Ferguson complains that the returns from the collection, ordered to be taken up on the first Sabbath of July, are slow in coming in; but this is probably because of the pretty general adopting of the schedule year, which prevents a realization of the funds for the different schemes until the close of the year. Let it be known and felt everywhere that the French Mission has entered upon a new era, and that funds are needed for carrying it on vigorously; and we are satisfied the congregations will furnish all that is required.

Last year, about this time, 35 congregations had contributed \$461. This year so far, the Treasurer has received remittances, amounting only to \$205, from 22 congregations. Such a state of the Fund is exceedingly discouraging to the Committee, especially in view of the new demands upon it arising from the ordination and induc-