

always been the peaceful and most lucrative domain of the priesthood and the nuns. In many respects the work of reform is easier there than here. In the first place there is a considerable nucleus of the descendants of the Huguenots—Protestants, well educated, generally wealthy—and who frequently fill positions of trust and consideration even in the government of the country. These positions, it must be understood, are not the result of their creed—rather in spite of it—but of their peculiar fitness in holding places of ability, honor and responsibility. This forms a natural basis for all evangelistic work. Another great advantage lies in the fact that the French people emigrate but very little, so that converts generally remain as means of influence on others. With us it is quite different. The French Canadian, whether educated or not, learns the English language easily; for that reason our French churches which are formed with so much difficulty rapidly lose their members; many of the latter join English-speaking churches in the country, or still more frequently emigrate to the United States or elsewhere. Nevertheless the work is being done, although the result does not fully appear. Finally, the work in France is fostered by a high degree of culture among liberal-minded men, while in this country everything is crushed by the influence of public opinion moulded in seminaries and convents. Here a work of even partial reform such as that of Father Hyacinthe is impossible, for the whole of priesthood has submitted to the degrading shackles of Ultramontanism. In France they are expelling the Jesuits—here they have processions of sympathy for them. In France whole parishes call for Protestant pastors; Protestant lecturers are filling large halls with eager audiences all over the country. The work of reform in France possesses preachers like Bersier, Hyacinthe Loyson; writers and orators like De Pressensé, Pilatte, Naville; lecturers like Réveillaud and the Monods; workers like McCall and many others. Our work is small compared to theirs; but they are endeavoring to introduce the Gospel in a population of thirty-five millions of people, while we are doing so among one million, surrounded by English Protestants. Oh! if only that Protestantism were what it should be with the teaching of the Gospel! Let us now endeavor to show in this country an exemplary French Protestantism that will surely be successful and sanctifying.

In the afternoon meeting the religious emotions of those who engaged in prayer were such that they were unable to proceed.