

opened for the first time, a French service in the Temperance Hall of St. Laurent. 54 persons were present. A great success. Naturally curiosity had a good deal to do with it; the audience diminished, but during the summer a nucleus, which had been formed at first, continued to attend, increasing every Sunday. Last Sunday, 13th Sept., 32 listened with the deepest attention to a lecture entitled, "*Ought the people to read the Bible?*"

THE EVENING SCHOOL.

which I opened about the same time, 1st of June, has gone on well during the long days, and more than 30 individuals have there learned to read and cipher, whether in French or English. This means has been a powerful lever for my work, because the reading of the Bible and prayer have never been neglected in the classes.

ON THE 1ST OF JULY

I opened a public service in the "Vale Colliery." Since this first attempt, from 30 to 40 have visited the place of worship every Sunday. I have unfortunately met with strong opposition on the part of representatives of the company, which has done great injury to the Mission.

THE SABBATH,

which in France is a day of festivity and debauchery, is for us a day hallowed and set apart. How difficult it is to make them understand their duty in this respect. Moral obligation—religious duty—has little hold on minds and hearts which have never been cultivated. They wished to make, and they have made of the sacred day, during a pretty long time, a day of excursions, and of hunting and fishing. Finally, I may say with confidence that a good many now observe it from *principle*. A great step in the right direction!

BIBLES AND TRACTS.

This important part of the work has never been neglected. At first I circulated religious and controversial tracts among the people, with good effect. Afterwards I sold or gave to them New Testaments and Bibles. And now I can say that a great many read carefully the New Testament and desire to be acquainted with its teachings in order to practice them. Moreover, several have subscribed to the *Aurore*, a weekly journal published by an active Christian in Montreal.

THEIR VISITS

to my house have been frequent through the summer. Some—and these are the greatest number—came to consult me on other subjects besides religion, for none of them can speak English, which embarrasses

them very much in their daily transactions. But these, as well as others who came to consult me on religious subjects, have all received good advice and religious instruction. They have always loved supremely to see me and speak to me. It is natural seeing that I have always shown myself faithful friend. They have full confidence in me.

In my pastoral or missionary visits I am always guarded. I have always avoided controversy, for I believe it is a bad means of evangelization with the ignorant and bigoted class. But in the course of conversation I slip in an element purely religious and instructive. In this way they are brought—without suspecting it—and good influence, and receive religious teachings which they would otherwise reject.

THE ATTEMPT

which a French priest made among them a few weeks ago has been without any result. "Do you think that the French wish for a French priest?" "May be so." They replied. "Do you think that he would be supported if he came to settle among you?" "We don't know anything about it." The poor priest went away again in despair for the cause. Adieu, money-grab and destroyer. No, Mr. Cumming it is plain that they do not wish

A PRIEST

here. It is our part then to cultivate and care the field which is offered to us. Since the visit of Father Mac. asking for me several, a *great many* have said to me they are ready to subscribe a round sum for the erection of a

FRENCH CHURCH

in the place where they may be to something. Is it not astonishing that only six months' labour, people who a few months ago were either Catholics or sceptics ask for a church!

SUM TOTAL.

I affirm that although we cannot expect for ripe fruit after so short a season, nevertheless, the seed cast into the ground has taken root and grown. It only remains for us, under the eye of God, to water it. The grain will one day ripen. For a situation as I have been during the summer it is not difficult to state that a

WONDERFUL CHANGE

has already been wrought among men, so long held in religious error and servitude.

And now my dear Sir it remains for me to thank you with all my heart for the guiding hand which you have always extended to me. Your Christian kindness and pious behavior will long live in my