

French Evangelization.

REPORT OF MISSION WORK ON THE NORTH
SHORE OF THE LOWER ST. LAWRENCE
FROM PORT AU PERSIL TO MISTASSINI.

By REV. C. A. DOUDIET.

THE following brief extracts from Mr. Doudiet's report to the Board of French Evangelization will serve to convey some idea of the difficulties attending missionary work in these isolated regions. "Starting from Tadousac, on the 25th of July, L'anse à l'Eau and Port au Persil, above the mouth of the Saguenay, were first visited. At the latter place was kindly received by Mr. John MacLaren, the veteran forest inspector of the district, and a strong supporter of our Church, who offered the use of his boat for the expedition, and although it was quite too small for the nature of the service, it was the only one available. Port au Persil is a small scattered hamlet of about twenty-five families. The land is mountainous, poor and stony. There are only three or four Protestant families in the place. Notwithstanding his advanced age, Mr. MacLaren does a great deal of quiet and effective missionary work along the coast. One of his sons, who is thoroughly acquainted with every rock and shoal along the coast, agreed to act as pilot and another hand was engaged, making with myself a crew of three. On Sabbath, 28th, preached in French in the morning, and in English in the evening, for the benefit of the summer visitors, among whom were the family of Mrs. Lamb, our Pointe aux Trembles teacher, and that of Rev. M. Lefebvre of Quebec. The Roman Catholics of Port au Persil are generally civil and respectful to our missionaries, but they are too much afraid of their priests and of each other to attend Protestant services. The only effective way to reach them is by visiting them in their homes. Mr. Maynard, our student missionary there, besides ministering to the adherents of our church, teaches a few children and evangelizes whenever he can find an opportunity. Monday, 30th July.—Rowed and sailed to Tadousac, calling at Rivière aux Canards, where there is one Protestant family. Tuesday, 31st.—Stormy day. One of the men fell sick. I doctor him the best way I can. Bought supplies for the journey. Sailed on Wednesday at 6 a.m., with a fair wind, to Escumains, 30 miles below Tadousac. Landed on a sandy beach and cooked dinner. The only Protestant residing here was absent at the time. Called upon an old widow near by, and had a long conversation with her, which I trust may have done her some good. Had a sound sleep on a rock, waiting for the tide to rise. Left at 7 p.m. and rowed three hours to a small creek where a number of raftsmen were at work, but as

there was no shelter for our craft, put out again and rowed three miles further to Petite Romaines, landing at 11.30 p.m. with some difficulty. Thursday, August 2, detained by contrary wind until 3.30 p.m. Night very dark. Ran three times on rocks, once nearly upsetting the boat. At 12.30 reached Port Neuf lighthouse and slept in the tower. Friday, rowed all day and reached Sault au Cochon, 60 miles from Tadousac, and was hospitably received by Mr. Forrest the Manager of Price's Mills, who belongs to the Church of England. The next point of call was Bersemis, a Hudson Bay Post, where we were kindly entertained by Mr. McDonald, the agent of the Company. His family, his clerk, and Mr. Shepherd, manager of the lumber mills, are the only Protestants in Bersemis. Storms and heavy rain detained us here until Thursday, 9th August. Left at 1 p.m. Still very rough sea. After hazardous sailing for an hour or two ran into a rocky bay and landed. By 3 p.m. it is a tempest. Friday.—Left at 3 a.m.; rowed fifteen miles and landed near the Manicouagan lighthouse. An American company is putting up an extensive fish and oil establishment here. The employees will be chiefly Protestants from Maine, and the company will pay liberally towards the support of a missionary at this place during the summer months. Rowed on to Manicouagan Bay, and put up at a Roman Catholic farmer's house. Saturday, wind still high. Rowed 18 miles to Mistassini Bay and landed. The only inhabitant is an old bachelor, living in a small log hut and holding the position of keeper of the salmon fishery. On Sabbath evening, August 12th, a yacht belonging to the lighthouse keeper of Pointe des Monts cast anchor in the Bay and I learned from his son that this family is the only one living at the Point and that at Goudbout, the only hamlet this side of Pointe des Monts, there are no Protestant residents. This information, and the facts that my funds were by this time exhausted, indicated that I should proceed no further. Accordingly I availed myself of the offer of a passage to Bic in a yacht at the exorbitant charge of ten dollars, and sent the two men back with the boat. From what has been said, it will be seen that there are not very promising openings for mission work between Tadousac and Pointe des Monts, except perhaps at the Pointe aux Outardes, if the American oil works are opened next summer. Tadousac itself is well supplied with religious services in English during the summer. It might be worth while trying French services there. And there are a number of points beyond Pointe des Monts that might be visited with advantage during the summer months, as for example, *McSic*, which counts about forty families, *Shallop River*, *Sheldrake*, *Rivière au Tonnerre*, *St. John River*, *Magpie*, *Long Point of Mingan*, and *Mingan*, in each of these places there are Protestant families and openings for missionary work."