

Chambers by the Dollinger party, asking the Government what course it intended to pursue with respect to Church questions. The reply was satisfactory. The Minister of Public Works stated that the Catholic Church had been altered by the doctrine of Infallibility—a doctrine dangerous to the State, and the Roman curia regarded the Concordat solely as a convention which might at any moment be cancelled. Specially replying to the petition, he declared that the Government had determined to afford the fullest protection, based on the laws of the country, to all those Catholics belonging to the State who do not accept the dogma of infallibility, and, so far as concerns their property, to protect them in all their honestly acquired rights and positions; that the Government recognised the right of parents to bring up their children in what faith they pleased; that the Old Catholic community would be regarded by the Government as Catholic; and that it was decided to ward off all attacks upon the rights of the State by every constitutional means in its power. The Minister also declared that the Government was willing to consider the Church and State independent of one another, since thereby alone could religious peace be restored and its maintenance for the future be assured. The great drawback, with respect to the movement, is that it lacks the strong and noble spiritual element which was the root of the Reformation of the 16th century. Still, Father Hyacinthe is a most evangelical and earnest man, and the spiritual element may yet come to the surface in connection with the whole movement. Then, and not till then, can we look upon it with unfaltering faith and hope.

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONS.

For our encouragement in prosecuting the Acadian Mission we reproduce the following statement of facts recently made by Mr. Rivard, Editor of the *Aurore*, a French protestant newspaper:—

"Mission work amongst the French in Canada was commenced about 35 years ago, when services were held in Montreal.

The next year, Madame Feller began a school in a log house near Grande Ligne. At present there are five missionary societies among the French in Canada, viz., the French-Canadian, the Baptist,* the Sabrevois Mission, the Methodist and Presbyterian.

The French-Canadian Society employs fifteen or sixteen missionaries, and has a boys' and a girls' school at Pointe-aux-Trembles, nine miles from Montreal. There are about 80 scholars. A third or fourth of the number are Romanists when they come to the school, but all go away Protestant.

The Baptists have two schools; one at Grande Ligne and one at Longueuil, both having 60 scholars. They have 12 or 14 missionaries. Two of their churches are in the States near the Line. The Sabrevois Mission, carried on by the Episcopalians, had for several years only 8 or 10 scholars; but now has 40 or 50. The Methodist employ 6 or 8 missionaries. There is only one minister under the charge of the Presbyterians of the Church of Scotland, and his Church will in two or three months be merged in the other French Protestant church.

Mr. Rivard went on to speak of the results accomplished. 10,000 had become nominally Protestant, though many of them had left the Province of Quebec. Colporteurs travelled from house to house through the country, living often on a meal a day, sleeping on the floor, and suffering persecution. Some, worn out, had retired; others had died in the work; but devoted men were found to fill their places. The *Aurore*, the only French Protestant paper on the continent, has a circulation of 1000, and has been instrumental in the conversion of several persons.

Mr. Rivard also stated that he had compiled a hymn book, of which he was just publishing the third edition—an edition of 3,000. It was therefore a mistake, as he remarked, to suppose that little had been done, though the good seed has, as yet, been chiefly growing beneath the ground, and a few years will witness wonderful growth and progress.

Canada Presbyterian Assembly.

The General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church met last month in Toronto for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Committee on Union. The discussions was long and able. The resolution finally arrived at is to the effect that the Basis be approved and sent down to Presbyteries and Sessions—that an effort be made to raise an endowment of \$250,000 in three years for Knox College and the