

the more intelligent of its votaries into Schism, or disgusts them into Infidelity. The rapid growth of Infidelity in Roman Catholic Countries is a startling, but intelligible fact. It is chargeable upon the System called Christianity with which these unhappy persons are acquainted. If we, ourselves, knew nothing of Christianity, but as it is taught in the legends of so-called Saints, and attested by childish tricks mis-called miracles, and embodied in dogmas outraging common sense, such as papal Infallibility, we would not be slow in concluding that Christianity was nothing better than the fancies of Islam or Confucius. It is not too much to say that the conclusions of many learned German and French Sceptics would have been materially different had they drawn their knowledge of Christianity from the teachings of the Bible instead of the teachings of the church.

We stand confessedly on the defensive before Romanism and its insidious attacks upon our Civil Institutions. In the Old world Dynasties have fallen in the frantic efforts of nations to shake of the galling yoke of Priestly rule, which rendered them internally weak and externally contemptible. What a gratifying spectacle it is to witness United Italy again taking rank among the nations worthy of its ancient traditions; and coming into line with the foremost of its neighbours in Social and Educational affairs. The struggle which Prussia so honourably concluded on the soil of France was not more important in results bearing upon her own future than that other struggle in which she is now engaged with the Ultramontanes on her own soil. To make those who minister at the altars of Religion independent of the dictation of a hostile foreign ecclesiastic; and to secure for her rising youth an enlightened Education free from Sectarian bias is a work requiring more wisdom and more courage than the reduction of an Empire or the transfer of an imperial crown.

In this respect the case of Prussia is unfortunately not an exceptional one. The undisguised aim of Romanism is to seize and control popular Education in every country of Christendom. Within the last few weeks this fact was brought home to us in the Dominion of Canada in a very striking manner. Not only are compacts formed and pliant politicians manipulated to suit the designers of this scheme of aggression, but when the constitution itself stands in the way, an attempt is made to lay unholy hands upon its provisions. We are startled with the fact that the stability of our political institutions is endangered by the tactics of a comparatively small minority, which is the more serviceable to its designing leaders because of the gross ignorance of the masses who comprise it. Considerations of self-de-

fence call upon us to shed the light of truth on this mass of ignorance if we can.

And lastly, the present aspects of Popery itself abound with indications of promise. Notwithstanding its vigorous efforts at aggression, the Church of Rome is torn with internal dissensions as it never has been since the period of the Reformation. The proceedings at the Council of Rome and especially the promulgation of Papal Infallibility have done irreparable injury to Romanism. It has stirred up within her own pale a most inconvenient spirit of inquiry. It has shocked thousands of earnest and honest men, and thrown many of them into revolt. It has revealed the dishonesty of cringing ecclesiastics, who could eloquently denounce in the Council a dogma which they can swallow without a grimace in their own Dioceses; and it is very evident that it has grieved and perplexed multitudes who still remain within the pale of the Romish Church. The result, as testified by Missionaries in almost every part of the world, is that Roman Catholics at the present time are unusually accessible, and willing to speak on questions of religion, and unusually willing to buy and read Evangelical books.

We recognise the present therefore as our opportunity and while we rejoice to learn the progress of the Gospel among Roman Catholics in other lands our own business is vigorously to prosecute our Acadian Mission, the only Mission of our Church which directly seeks the conversion of Roman Catholics. We shall let the facts connected with the work of the Mission speak for themselves.

Messrs. Paradis and Pelletier, the Missionaries of last year, continued their operations until their attendance was required at the opening classes at Montreal. A full and very interesting Report of their labors was published in the *Record* for March. It is unnecessary, therefore, to recapitulate the facts here. Suffice it to say that the sale of 282 copies of the Word of God among French Roman Catholics is itself a most gratifying fact. Who can estimate the result? This is the seed time, the harvest will surely come in its turn.

The operations of the present year began early in the month of April. The French Canadian Missionary Society kindly allotted to us again our esteemed young friend Mr. Paradis, and together with him they sent an equally amiable and well qualified young man, M. Brouillette. They arrived in St. John on the 5th April, and at a meeting of Committee convened on the following day, it was decided that M. Brouillette should proceed up the St. John River, and begin work in Victoria County; when Paradis should join him after he had paid a short visit to Buctouche, — the scene of some very interesting incidents last year.