

desirable to aim at in the way of capital, we would call attention to some facts from last year's Reports on the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund of the Free Church of Scotland. That Fund has a capital of about half a million of dollars, from which the annual income is mainly derived. The amount payable to the *eighty-four* beneficiaries on the Fund last year was £4,895, an average of \$290. Deducting *ten*, who are not retired from active duty, but who receive allowances (generally £30) for Assistants, *seventy four* retired ministers receive £4,545, an average of a little over \$300. The number of ministers in the Free Church is, we believe, just about *one thousand*; so that the number of beneficiaries on its Fund may be said to be about *eight* per cent of the number of ministers. This largely exceeds our percentage; the number of beneficiaries being last year *twenty*, and the number of ministers about *four hundred and fifty*, a percentage of nearly *four and a half*. It may be expected that in the course of a few years our percentage will be about the same as that of the Free Church. Suppose that our percentage reached its permanent average of *eight* per cent., by the time the number of our ministers has increased to *five hundred*, say from ten to fifteen years hence. The number of our beneficiaries would then be *forty*. To meet their claims would, according to our present average annuity, (220), require an income of \$3,800, and to enable the Committee to give as much as \$400 in cases in which ministers have no retiring allowance from other sources, would require a much larger income, probably from \$10,000 to \$12,000. There are few, if any, who will be disposed to think that an annual income of this amount can be kept up without a considerable capital. But with a capital such as that of our Widow's Fund, which is over \$50,000 and yields income to the amount of \$6,000, the Church could do something like its duty to its worn out ministers. And with the example of the Free Church before us, it is surely not too much to hope that in a few years, especially if it should please God to give us some measure of our former prosperity, we may have a capital which, large as it may seem, is but a fifth or a sixth of that of the Free Church.

The following Form of Bequest may be used by such as wish to leave to this Fund a portion of the substance with which God has blessed them:—

"I give and bequeath to the General Agent of the Western Section of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the sum of dollars for the purpose of being added to the capital Fund for the Aged and Infirm Ministers of the said Western Section of that Church, or to the Treasurer or other proper officer in the charge or custody of the monies of such Fund or entitled for the time being to receive any monies for

such Fund, whose receipt shall be a valid and sufficient discharge to my Executors or Trustees under this my will." J. M.

French Evangelization.

JOTTINGS.

AMID many obstacles and difficulties, the work of French Evangelization goes hopefully forward, and there are not wanting indications that much good is being accomplished. At a recent communion at Grand Falls, N. B., where Rev. M. R. Parads labours with much zeal and fidelity, two adults were by baptism publicly received into the Church. At the January communion in Russell Hall, (St. John's Church), Montreal, nine new members were received, three of whom without solicitation accompanied their abjuration of Romanism with a subscription to the Church funds. As illustrative of the wide reacting influence of the work, the following is an extract from a letter lately received by Rev. Mr. Doudiet, from a convert who a year ago returned to France: "we have had a great deal of sorrow lately through the illness and death of two near relatives of my wife. However, it was our privilege to tell them, ere they died, of the sweet promises of Christ in the Gospel. They had been, like ourselves, Montreal Roman Catholics and cared nothing for true religion, but we have good reason to know that they received forgiveness and that they are now and forever with the Lord." The writer expresses great anxiety about the progress and prosperity of the Lord's work in Canada, and states that it is his daily prayer that many of his "compatriotes" may understand the riches of the Gospel. Another convert recently died in the Montreal Hospital giving good evidence that she fell asleep in Jesus. Her husband, at one time careless and irreligious, seems now a changed man and evidently loves the Gospel.

Of the many families of converts that have been compelled to leave Montreal for want of work, two have taken up land in the county of Compton, Que. Family worship is regularly observed in their new homes. In the evening some of their neighbours, French Canadian Catholics, come in to hear the Bible read and, on Sabbaths, quite a number gather regularly in the house of one of these converts to listen to the reading of the Gospel and to unite in the singing of hymns. It is true of many of our French Canadian converts to-day, as of the early Christians when scattered because of persecution, that they go everywhere preaching the Word of life. From ministers of the Church in various parts of the Dominion the Board have intelligence from time to time to the effect that certain French Canadian converts from some of