

NOTES OF FRENCH WORK.

Why? Why do we seek to press the work of French Evangelization? Two of the many reasons that might be given are the following:

1. The more we love a friend the more anxious are we that he should share the best that we enjoy; and loving our French Canadian fellow countrymen, we seek to give them that which they have not, and which is so precious to us, an open Bible, God's message of life and hope to men.

2. The more we love a friend, the more anxious are we to do what he wishes or commands. Our Best Friend has bidden us go "unto *all* the world and preach the Gospel to *every* creature."

Father Chiniquy. Four score and five years have passed over him, and on his recent birthday some friends met at his home and presented him with a valuable purse and a cordial address, to which he fittingly replied. Two facts stand prominent in a review of this long, long life, (1). His marvellous power, especially in his prime, among his French compatriots; and (2). His wonderful success in the days of his greatest strength in leading them to the Gospel. In giving visibility, and volume, and impulse, to the work of French Evangelization, he stands by far without a peer.

The Contrast. "A shoemaker who has attended our Church but once," writes a worker, "says he can no longer believe in Romanism. He has the Bible and the R. C. Catechism in his shop and calls the attention of all those who go in to the discrepancies between them. The work is going on encouragingly here."

A young convert. "The most important event in this field during June," writes a missionary, "is the conversion of a young R. C. woman of twenty. She has sent her abjuration to the Bishop. She was persecuted by her parents: others, instigated by the priest, had joined her parents to persecute her, so that she had to leave her service in this place and go to a neighboring town, where with letters of recommendation, she found employment. May God bless and strengthen her in the hour of need."

St. Mark's, Mr. Seylaz, reports progress. In **Ottawa,** our weekly prayer meeting a number of young men take part. We have organized a C. E. Society. A number of good families are coming back, and some of the good English families show their sympathy by occasional attendance. We meet with encouragement also in our aggressive work. A few Roman Catholics attend our services, and one or two men are about to sever their connection with Romanism to join the Gospel cause."

Eager for truth. "This month has been very encouraging for me," says one. I have had many opportunities to speak publicly to many

people. The curé denounced me and called upon his parishioners to persecute me if I should ever offer them the Gospel. Strange to say they have done me no harm and appear even better disposed to listen to me. At St. A., near here, I had a meeting in a house near the R. C. Church, with a large number of R. C.'s who listened to me with great attention. I went to St. C., where found again our old friends. We had two meetings and 25 R. C.'s were present both times. They asked many questions about our church, and made me promise to come again soon. I gave many copies of the Gospel.

Chambly. From this field Mr. Boy, the missionary, writes:—I closed my school for the holidays on the 27th of June. After the examination and the distribution of prizes we had a nice little party with the children and their parents, given by Mrs. Boy. All enjoyed it. It made a good impression on the people and I think will be the means to bring me several new scholars when school re-opens. Our Sunday School and meetings are going on as usual. Last Sunday we had a very interesting meeting. Two or three Roman Catholics were present for the first time. They seemed to be much pleased. They were craving to come since long ago, but did not dare to. Now the ice is broken and we expect them to attend regularly. Next Sunday I expect five new scholars to our Sunday School.

Throws away his Bible. In his report for June, a missionary writes,—"One young man was so impressed by the reading of the New Testament and my answers to his questions that he went and spoke frankly to his cousins, three families, trying to convince them with the New Testament that the R. C. religion was not the true religion. They told him if he had nothing else to say to never come again to their house. They informed the priest and asked him to speak to the young man. He said 'tell him I want to see him.' The young man, who thought himself as strong as an oak, did not wish anything better, and was glad indeed to meet the priest, and he went with some of his relatives.

The priest argued with him for half a day. The strongest argument he used was this one, "The New Testament you have is a Protestant one and full of additions. Throw it away as soon as possible. The priest confessed him. He threw the New Testament away."

I met the young man a few days afterward and he told me everything. He said he was not satisfied; that the priest did not give him any good reasons, but that he could not do anything but submit; his parents were crying, the priest was at him all the time, his friends would stop him on the street and ask him if he was a Protestant. Since that his father has come and taken him home, but I think he will be back soon.

The priest was very angry after his meeting with the young man, and he said many times aloud on his way home that if he knew any family having a Bible they would be excommunicated. The same missionary writes,—"Many families have the Bible or the New Testament and read it in spite of the priests. Many I know would not throw it away to please them."