

October was ordained by the Montreal Presbytery as missionary in this district. He conducts service in French every Sabbath morning, the average attendance for the year being a little over thirty, some Roman Catholics being present at almost every service; indeed, every Roman Catholic family in the district, Mr. Hamilton reports, has during the year been represented at some of the meetings. The average number present at the Thursday evening prayer meeting, which is held from house to house, is twenty. The Sabbath school has nearly forty names on its roll. It is conducted very much as other Presbyterian Sabbath schools are, the Shorter Catechism (in French) being in regular use. Mr. Hamilton is most assiduous in his efforts to advance the temporal and spiritual interests of the people. He is looked up as a friend in almost every home in the district, the Roman Catholics equally with the Protestants warmly receiving him and permitting him to pray and read with them. The people generally are poor, and being dependent to some extent upon the lumbering interest, the depression in that business for the last two or three years has deprived them of this means of obtaining a livelihood. Added to this the crops last year were very light and in some instances an entire failure. Most of the French Protestants are able to read. Mr. Hamilton cites the following illustration of the desire of the people for instruction: "The old couple where I stay learned to read after their conversion, frequently sitting up whole nights and sometimes forgetting their meals in their anxiety to learn to read the Gospel. They both knew the letters to begin with. This was the extent of their early education or rather all that they remembered of it. They first learned a verse or two of a hymn by heart, and upon that foundation they set to work and learned to read. The old lady has often said to me that she cannot understand how any one can be a real Protestant and not read the Gospel."

The need of a suitable place in which to meet for public worship being greatly felt, it was resolved to make an effort to obtain a church. One of the congregation gave a site, others took logs to the mill and had them sawn, and Mr. Hamilton personally canvassed friends in Montreal and other places for subscriptions, securing sufficient to warrant the congregation going forward with the work. The building, which is of frame on stone foundation, 38x26, is nearly completed and will be consecrated to the worship of God early next month. Sufficient lumber has been obtained for the erection of a manse on the adjoining lot, and Mr. Hamilton expects to have his family in the new house before many months pass by. A mission day school is much required in this field, there being at present no Protestant school in the whole district. Two small French Protestant colonies have gone out from Grenville, one of seven or eight families to Lac Vert, fifteen miles distant, and the other numbering twelve families to Arundel, a distance of twenty miles. The spiritual interests of these are not altogether neglected by the Board as will appear in another part of the Report. Rev. Mr. Chiniquy visited Grenville last fall and was attentively listened to by an audience of 150, including many Roman Catholics. In addition to the French work, Mr. Hamilton has opened two English stations in the immediate vicinity, to which he gives supply on alternate Sabbath afternoons.

XXIII.—NAMUR, QUE.

As mentioned in last year's Report, on the 15th of May, 1876, three French Protestant families from Montreal, recent converts of Mr. Chiniquy's, accompanied by a devoted missionary of the Board—Mr. C. C. Mousseau—arrived at Namur, in the Township of Suffolk, a township lately opened for settlement, about twenty-five miles to the north-west of Grenville. They found but ten other families in the settlement, all of whom were French Catholics. These were regularly visited by the priest, who came to celebrate mass monthly.

At the end of the first month after Mr. Mousseau's arrival three of these families renounced Romanism. At the end of the second month the priest ceased his visits, only two of the ten families being able to hold out against the truth.

Through the columns of the French press Mr. Mousseau made known the existence of the colony and the terms on which land could be obtained from the Government, and invited French Protestants to join the little band already there. In response to his

invitation a large number of families have taken up land in the district, and the soil being very fertile it is confidently hoped that in this French Protestant settlement there will ere long be at least one large, self-supporting congregation in connection with our Church.

Mr. Mousseau worked zealously here during the year teaching the mission day school and conducting the Sabbath services. His health, however, broke down with his incessant labors, and in April it became necessary to change his field. Amid the tearful regrets of the whole settlement Mr. Mousseau left Namur, his place being supplied by Messrs. Camerle and Richard. The former acts as missionary and the latter as teacher of the day school—both, however, co-operating with each other in visiting and generally in advancing the interests of the mission. Mr. Camerle preaches in French twice every Sabbath, in the new church erected by the Board in Namur last year, and in addition holds occasional week-day services and visits the French Protestant colony from Grenville, settled at Lac Vert, some few miles distant from Namur. He reports an attendance of seventy at the Sabbath services, twenty five at the Sabbath school, and about the same number at the day school. He expects these numbers to be considerably increased as the roads improve after the spring rains. There are at present fifty Protestant families connected with the mission.

The Board are much indebted to the Rev. C. A. Doudiet, who visited this field during the year, a report of which visit appeared in the February number of the Church "Record."

XXIV.—OTTAWA CITY, ONT.

Few places in the Dominion have felt more severely the long continued commercial depression than Ottawa, and it will not be a matter of surprise to any one to learn that our French congregation in the city have suffered much on this account, no less than twenty members requiring during the year to seek elsewhere the means of subsistence for themselves and their families. The time and strength of the missionary—Rev. M. Ami—have been much taxed in endeavoring to procure employment for those connected with the Church and in relieving the more pressing wants of the unemployed. He gratefully acknowledges valuable assistance given him in ministering to the poor by the Ladies' Aid Societies of the other Presbyterian congregations of the city.

During the year a few persons have abjured Romanism, and though twenty members have left the bounds their places have to a large extent being filled by others, seventeen additions having been made to the congregation in the past twelve months. Concerning the admission of new members, Mr. Ami thus writes: "As it is my principle never to receive those who have left Romanism until they have given evident proofs of a change of heart, I have postponed the request of three of our people to join us as communicants. I prefer to have a smaller number of members and have them faithful to their Christian profession, honoring the Gospel by their daily walk."

The attendance at the Sabbath services and at the weekly meetings for prayer, and also at the Bible class and Sabbath school, continues about the same as during the preceding year.

The annual meeting of the congregation in March was an occasion of much interest. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Armstrong, Gordon, Farries, Moore and Ami, by Rev. J. J. Cameron of New Edinburgh, and one or two others.

The congregation still worship in a rented hall, inconveniently located and far from attractive, the state of business preventing any effort being yet made in the way of church erection.

The Board again express the earnest hope that the English-speaking Protestants of Ottawa will ere long set on foot a scheme for the purchase or erection of a suitable house of worship for our French Presbyterian congregation—the only French Protestant congregation in the Capital.

XXV.—OTTAWA CITY—WEST END.

Mr. Joseph Allard, student missionary, assisted Rev. M. Ami last summer. A Sabbath evening service was conducted by him in the Duke street school house, and since his departure last fall, the service has been regularly maintained by Mr. Ami with much evident interest and encouragement. The expense connected with the rental, heating and lighting of the school house has been borne by Mrs. Bronson, a benevolent friend of the cause. Instead of sending a

French student to this field for the present summer, the Board, at the earnest solicitation of the Presbytery of Ottawa, have recently appointed Mr. L. LeClaine, a former colporteur of the French Canadian Missionary Society, to labor in the city in conjunction with the Rev. Mr. Ami.

XXVI.—RIVER DESERT, QUEBEC.

The Rev. T. Brouillette was engaged to supply this field for one year, from 1st of September, 1876, his salary being met in equal proportions by the Home Mission Committee, the Lumberman's Mission Committee, and the Board of French Evangelization. At the expiry of his term of engagement Mr. Brouillette was removed to Stellarton, N.S., since which time the Board have had no missionary in the field.

XXVII.—GLENGARRY, ETC., ONTARIO.

Messrs. W. Mullens and G. H. Allard, two of the colporteurs of the Board, spent the whole of the last summer in the counties of Russell, Stormont and Glengarry. They distributed a large number of tracts, Bibles and Testaments among the 8,000 French Catholics in these counties, and report many encouraging incidents in connection with their work. The Board hope to secure the services of an earnest colporteur for the ensuing summer months.

XXVIII.—DRYSDALE AND GRAND BEND, HURON CO., ONTARIO.

The English-speaking Presbyterians in this district now enjoy the services of a settled pastor. Among the French Protestants, of whom there are thirty-five families, the Rev. J. Vessott labored during a considerable portion of the year, being preceded for two months by Mr. Z. Lefebvre, another of the missionaries of the Board. Mr. Vessott's report for February may be taken as a fair illustration of the work done in the field during the year. Families visited during the month, seventy-six Protestants and twenty-two Roman Catholics, average Sabbath attendance at Grand Bend, sixty-seven, of whom five were Roman Catholics, and at Drysdale, fifty-two, of whom three were Roman Catholics, average attendance at the prayer meeting, fifty-five. Mr. Vessott was generally well received in the houses of the Roman Catholics, who expressed pleasure with his visits and with the religious instruction imparted. Mr. G. C. Mousseau succeeds Mr. Vessott in this important and encouraging field.

XXIX.—ESSEX COUNTY, ONTARIO.

The missionary who occupied this field last summer devoted a considerable portion of his time to the English-speaking people, hoping thereby to get a better footing among the French. The missionary of the present summer, Mr. I. P. Bruneau, has instructions to confine his labors exclusively among the French, of whom there are upwards of ten thousand in the county. His headquarters are at Comber, in Tilbury West. Mr. Bruneau has been about two months in the field and, thus far, has only met one French Protestant family. He has found access to the homes of many of the Roman Catholics, and speaks encouragingly of the impression made by him on a few families. In Mr. Bruneau the Board have a most conscientious, faithful missionary, just the kind of man for the difficult field in which he is at present laboring.

XXX.—STE. ANNE, KANKAKEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Since the removal of the Rev. C. Chiniquy from this field to Montreal no regular pastor has been settled at Ste. Anne, the Rev. C. Lafontaine, the Principal of the mission school, conducting the Sabbath services most of the time. The work, however, being too onerous for Mr. Lafontaine, and the interests of the congregation requiring the full and undivided services of a missionary, the Board, in October last, appointed the Rev. E. D. Pelletier to take charge of the field, in the hope that his salary would be entirely met by the congregation. Mr. Pelletier has labored with great diligence and zeal. He conducts three public services weekly in Ste. Anne—two on Sabbath and one on Wednesday evening. The morning service on the Lord's Day has averaged during the winter about 200; the evening one, a little over 100. Since the roads, which have been almost impassable all winter, have become better, the attendance has increased by about fifty at each service.

There is a most interesting Sabbath school in connection with the Church. It was organized two years ago by Mrs. Thomas, an active Christian lady, and has upon its roll nearly 200 names, with an average