

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

BY A FRENCH PASTOR'S WIFE.

**W**E understand our responsibility in regard to Foreign Missions. There is scarcely a Christian heart that is not more or less interested in the conversion of Indian, or Chinese, or African idolaters, and our hearts are moved when we think of their moral and religious destitution.

But what are we doing for our French fellow-countrymen. There is a great work to be done here for the sake of Christ and our country. What are we doing personally and individually. We give money. God wants more. He wants our personal and individual co-operation.

Many years ago a young Frenchman, a Roman Catholic, was in the employ of a Christian farmer from whom he got a New Testament. When the time of his engagement came to a close the good old man took him into the barn, and said, "Anthony, before we part would it not be well to kneel down and ask God's blessing. The young man readily assented. Both knelt and prayer was offered. On rising there was warm shaking of hands and farewell.

Years rolled on; the young man married and settled; the prayer in the barn was never forgotten; the Book of God was consulted: the heart was touched, the timid young Roman Catholic became a bold witness for Christ, and now among his children and grandchildren, sixty-nine in all, there are missionaries, medical men, lawyers, teachers, and manufacturers, all wielding an influence for good and many of them the means of bringing souls to Christ. The starting point, a barn, a prayer, a Testament given.

Oh what good could we not do if we would avail ourselves of our opportunities of bringing Christ and the truth as it is in the Gospel, nearer our Roman Catholic employees or any other we may have occasion to meet. Our lack of faithfulness on this point does not arise from want of interest, but I think we do not realize the importance of that work.

Roman Catholics are not looked upon as idolaters, but a little examination of their teaching will prove it. Do they not place the creature in place of Christ? Do they not pray to saints? Do they not attribute saving and protecting virtues to little pieces of cloth devoutly hung to their neck? Do they not believe that sinners can and do expiate their sins in purgatory and thus supplement the work of Christ? Do they not worship the wafer as the true God? Do we not realize that the more a Roman Catholic is true to his church the farther away he is from life Eternal, and that he has to give up the errors of his way, if he is ever to be saved, and that is he is saved in the Church of Rome it is in spite

of the Church and not through her teachings. If you could hear as do some of our Bible women, our holy book denounced as a bad book, deserving to be burned, and sometimes actually thrown into the fire under the threats or by the orders of the priests, you would realize what Romanism is.

We have heard of French Evangelization for so long that we may be getting tired of it as we get no great results.

There are many faithful ones who are suffering for their belief. They have to contend with difficulties of all kinds. In manufactories, when a R. C. foreman will find at the cost of truth some reason to replace them with R. C. friends, is it to be wondered at, if disgusted and discouraged they sometimes pack up and cross the line.

But the work progresses in spite of obstacles. There is a spirit of inquiry and a thirst after freedom. The yoke of Rome is more felt to be a yoke. There is a growing longing for liberty, and many are finding liberty in Christ.

**An Incident of French Work.** Mr. Bonnenfant, missionary colporteur of the Board of French Evangelization writes:—"In 1897

I was sent to work at Sorel. As soon as I arrived I started to go from house to house as is my habit. I found that the place was very fanatic and I did not meet with much success.

One day I met Monsieur E. C—, who lives quite near Sorel on the Richelieu River. He said he did not want the New Testament as he could neither read nor write. I assured him that it was the word of God and partly written by the apostles themselves, and read many passages to him. He listened very attentively and then I prayed with him. Before parting he said he would take a New Testament and ask his sons and daughters to read it for him so that he might be able to see the truth for himself. He then thanked me and asked me to come again and see him.

I had some correspondence with him but never saw him again until this summer when you sent me to this place. When I came I was glad to see him and it was the same with him. But after five years I did not find him alone studying the Gospel, but five families who had lost faith in the dogmas of the Romish Church, and were searching for truth. God had blessed our work and I am sure He will bless the work we have done here this summer. Amid difficulties and persecutions I opened a hall in the town and had so many listeners and inquirers that there was not room enough for them. Many people wanted to hear and many of them are now studying the word of God, and will find and accept the redemption of God, who gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish but have everlasting life. Oh that God would give us more and more the power to confess Him."