

STUDENT MISSION WORK.

FRENCH MISSIONS.

I WELL remember the time when I first thought of studying for the Christian ministry, and I have never questioned when and why I resolved to devote my life to the French cause. I know it now and shall explain it in a few words. It is not because I love my father more than I do my mother ; but because I believe the soul of a Frenchman to be as precious in God's sight as that of an Irishman or an Englishman. And as there are so many English missionaries employed in the work of the ministry and so very few who are willing to devote themselves to the mastery of the French language in order to prepare themselves for the French work, I feel that I am justified in choosing the latter cause and in advocating French Evangelization as one of the grandest schemes ever organized in Canada by the Presbyterian Church. Hence the pressing demand for and urgent need of men trained for the battle against Popery.

We must expect to meet with *obstacles* in this religious campaign. Long marches through forests of difficulties and frequent encounters with our foes. Our conflict is a deadly one. The field of engagement is vast and the enemy is numerous. They are increasing in number and advancing upon us like the "hordes" of Mahomet to take possession of our land. Our duty is to stand and face them, to fight and conquer them. The battle we have to fight is not against the French Race, but against Romanism as a religious system. We have temples and shrines to demolish ; idols and altars to overthrow ; beads to unstring and scatter ; bottles of holy water to break and spill ; images to tear down and burn ; error and superstition, prejudice and fanaticism to banish from the mind of a benighted people who love their religion dearly, respect and adore their priests and "pères spirituels" and who live in constant fear of being excommunicated or persecuted if they manifest the least desire to read and think for themselves.

It is in our opinion greatly to be deplored that men who profess to be Christian Protestants discountenance any effort made to convert the Roman Catholics to a living Christianity because it interferes with their own commercial business, and who even set obstacles in the way or destroy what is being done in the name of the Christ who has said : "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

But we have our *triumphs* also to crown our labours, and our prospects of success to encourage us. The French missionary has reason to feel hopeful when he sees that he has the sympathy and support of pious, influential men who take an active part in the work and contribute largely and