

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The great question now stirring to its depths our Fatherland, through Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet is equally pertinent to us in Canada. The progress of Ultramontaniam, its designs against the liberties of our Country, and endeavours to deepen the spiritual slavery of its votaries are equally marked and persistent. How to meet and arrest the advancing tide is to us even a more practical duty and matter of enquiry. But while we are alive to its connection with the social and political interests, not only of the French Canadian Romanists but of ourselves, as a Society we specially mark its influence in rivetting firmer the chains of error and superstition by which they are bound, and at the same time endeavour to rescue them to the liberty with which the Lord Jesus Christ makes free His people.

This is no easy task in the face of long rooted habits, against the influence of a priesthood exercising perhaps more real moral power than in any other country, against selfish interests swaying all parties whether connected with municipal or provincial politics, and in the face of difficulties peculiar everywhere to aggressive efforts against Romanism. It is our duty to remind the friends of the Gospel again, as has been done repeatedly, that the work is one beyond the power of man, and that upon God alone can we rely for success, by the outpouring of His Holy Spirit in answer to fervent prayer. "Not by might, nor by power, but my Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts."

With these preliminary remarks, the Committee in presenting the Annual Report, desire to express their gratitude to Almighty God for His continued blessings on the labours of the Society during the present year. It has been one of considerable anxiety, yet furnishing much to encourage and excite our gratitude. The work has gone on steadily, and there have been some gratifying instances of individuals freeing themselves from priestly trammels and now resting by faith on Jesus Christ as their only Saviour.

The missionaries have not met with that bitter persecution from the people that they have sometimes encountered, and notwithstanding the firm and continued opposition of the priesthood, they have generally been