

"I hereby promise," "I hereby promise," "God helping me," "God helping me," "that I will never taste a drop of liquor," "that I will never taste a drop of liquor," "as long as I live," "as long —"

"Oh, not that, not that, Father. Not that. Please don't make it for life." The priest shook his head and turned to the judge.

"I was afraid of that," said His Honor. "I was afraid he was not in earnest. We can do nothing with him. It must be for life or nothing."

"Please make it for six months—for nine months—for a year, but not for all my life," pleaded the man, as he rose from his knees and went towards His Honor. "I cannot say 'for all my life.'"

The judge was inexorable. He would not bend, and he wished his visitors good-day. "I am much obliged for your trouble and sorry for the result," said the priest, as he shook hands with the Recorder. "Banker" went forward and half held out his hand, with a word of thanks upon his lips for the chance given him. The hand was unseen; the opportunity seemed to be gone. With his head cast down, the man walked from the room and the judge settled to work on one of the half-dozen judgments that the Recorders are almost constantly preparing when they are on the bench.

A few minutes elapsed and there was a gentle knock at the door. Officer Burns put his head in and said that Father Heffernan wanted to come in again. He was admitted immediately and he said that his man had reconsidered. "Banker" walked in. The shame seemed to have gone from his face; his step was firm; his whole demeanor was changed.

The priest announced that his man was willing now to take the pledge for life. Once more he was told to go on his knees before his God, and he was reminded of the great obligation he was taking upon himself. He again went through the ceremony. This time he went to the end and then solemnly kissed the crucifix.

As he rose to his feet the judge advanced and warmly shook him by the hand, wished him every success in life, and told him that he could again drive his cab.

The cabbie took no chances on waiting for his chums to ask him to drink before he made his announcement. As soon as he reached the stand he told them that he had taken the pledge for life.

This was only a few days ago, but there is now an account opened with a city bank, and the man who has the right to sign cheques which releases that money is Mr. Jack "Banker."

The private reading of the Scriptures is a duty and a privilege that no Christian ought to neglect. As a matter of fact, he cannot neglect it without becoming impoverished in his religious life and experience. This is the source of his spiritual food supply. Every day, without fail, a portion of God's Word ought to be thoughtfully and prayerfully considered. Its truth needs to come into our desires and aims with the beginning of every day, and the influence of it will then abide with us in our thinking and in our acting. The Bible is God talking to us about duty, destiny and immortality. Its instruction gives us knowledge; its admonitions warn us of moral and spiritual danger; its promises strengthen and confirm us in love and hope, and its commandments tell us exactly what we must do to live in the favor of God. Without a habit of daily searching the Scriptures we can not know God's will concerning us.—*Texas Advocate*.

French Evangelistic Work.

BY THE EDITOR.

THERE seems to be at the present time a revival of interest in our French work in the Province of Quebec.

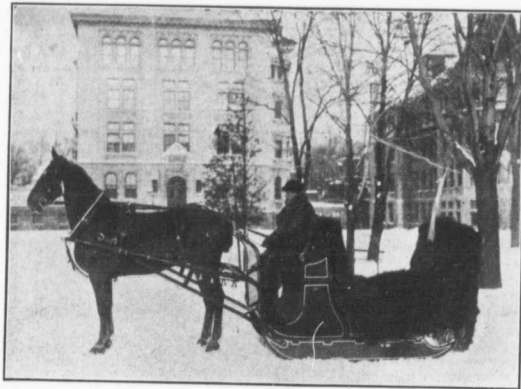
The Epworth Leagues of the Montreal, Quebec, and Huntingdon Districts have undertaken to support Rev. W. T. Halpenny, who intends to give himself entirely to this department of missionary activity. The French Institute in the city of Montreal is crowded to overflowing, having eighty-five pupils, and thirty applicants had to be refused, when the school opened last autumn. Having an hour to spare in Montreal a few days ago, I visited the Institute for the first time, and spent a very pleasant hour in looking through the building. The pupils were all gathered together in one of the large rooms and rendered a couple of French hymns in a very creditable manner. They are as bright a lot of boys and girls as one would find in a month's travel. As nearly all of them understand English, the visitor was asked to "make a few remarks." It is said that these French children learn English with surprising rapidity. Some of those who came in last October without knowing a word of English are now able to chat in our language very nicely.

The young people are taking great interest in the Epworth League, which has been recently organized in the Institute. Many of them are earnestly studying the Bible, and take great delight in the religious services which are regularly held. A few weeks ago ten of the pupils were received into Church membership. The building is not at all large enough. Some of the sleeping apartments which were intended for four, have now six and eight beds in them, and the class rooms are inadequate for the work which is carried on. If the Institute could be doubled in size it would not be at all too large.

The Principal, Rev. P. Villard, is an enthusiastic Frenchman, who seems to be the right man for the place. He was born in France, and for some time occupied a position in the Government employ, but came to Montreal because of his love for the French evangelistic work. He has been connected with the school for six years, but has been Principal only the past two years. He believes the most effective way

to bring the truth to the French people is by colportage, and by holding services in halls, rather than in churches, according to the plan adopted by the McAll Mission in France. Many Roman Catholics will attend a meeting in a hall who could not be induced to go into a Methodist church. Mr. Villard believes that the time has come to push the French work with new zeal and energy. He thinks, with others, that evangelistic work can be more successfully done by English preachers with some knowledge of the French language, than by Frenchmen who have been converted from Catholicism. The latter are often regarded as renegades, and are not listened to with as much respect as those who have always been Protestants.

Rev. W. T. Halpenny, B.A., the new evangelist, comes from Manitoba, where he spent twenty years of his life. He commenced his ministry in that Province and graduated in Wesley College, Winnipeg. Ten years ago, when in Montreal, he saw an announcement of one of Father Chiquin's meetings, and the thought took possession of him that he ought to engage in a similar work. Through all his residence in Manitoba since then, he has not been able to get away from the impression that it was his duty to enter the French field, and



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