

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.—1897-98.

To the Venerable the General Assembly :—

The Board thankfully acknowledges the hand of God in the good degree of success which has attended the work entrusted to its care during the past year.

The following is a brief survey of what has been accomplished. A reference to the prefixed outline map, will enable members of Assembly to observe the various counties in which our Mission Fields, Preaching Stations and Schools are placed in the Province of Quebec, and also the location of some of the Fields in Ontario and New Brunswick.

PRESBYTERY OF HURON.

Grand Bend, etc.—The Rev S. A. Carriere reports that the French Mission which forms part of his charge “continues to prosper very encouragingly in all respects,” both as to attendance at church services and Sabbath school, and adds that “at our last communion we had again the pleasure of receiving four French candidates, all formerly belonging to the Church of Rome. They are now among our most regular and interested attendants at religious services.”

PRESBYTERY OF ALGOMA.

Chelmsford, etc.—Rev. E. D. Pelletier is missionary, and supported conjointly by the H.M.C. and B.F.E. His field lies along the C.P.R. from Chelmsford westwards for about 225 miles, and embraces outlying lumber and mining camps. The following extract from the Presbytery's Report indicates the character of the French side of his work :—“Chelmsford continues to be the most important point for French work in this field. We have in this township over 300 French families, and this number is largely increasing every year from emigration from Quebec Province. The two adjoining townships of Rayside and Dowling are fast settling with the same class of people, and will soon all be taken up. They largely control school and municipal affairs. None are very bigoted. I have free access in all the families. Of course many do not like me, but among the principal families where I am now well known I feel that I am perfectly welcomed.

“I hold cottage meetings in different places in the township regularly. At these meetings we read the Bible, and talk and pray, and invite discussion with those present. Thus we prepare the way for the truth in the minds of some. Two new converts came forward at our last communion. I have distributed Bibles and other literature, and I hope to continue along this line during the winter, not only in the homes but in the lumber camps and railway, among a large floating population which we always have in winter in this district.”

PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE.

Penetanguishene, etc.—Mr. G. W. Thom labored as colporteur within the bounds during the summer. Mr. Thom reports that “the people in these parts are fairly liberal, yet they show no intention of abandoning the Holy Roman Catholic Church. The priest tells the people that there is no evil in our books but ‘it is better not to read them.’ The awful prevailing ignorance is shown by the way they compare ‘good’ and ‘bad’ books. They often tell me about a certain man who travelled these roads two years ago with a red covered book that was bad; then last year another came with a book about the same size but

13. CHICOVITIMI.
14. TEMESCOVATA.
15. LEVIS.

UNITED STATES