

## THE WORK OF FIFTY YEARS.

A MESSAGE FROM PTE. ALX TREMBLES.

To C. E. Societies and Sabbath Schools.

Dear young Friends,

Fifty years ago a small society of Christians, devoted to God and to their country, decided to build a large school for the education of young Roman Catholics, as a means of bringing them to the light of the Gospel.

Those men were few in number, but they were men of faith and of determination, ready for any sacrifice for the glory of God and the welfare of their countrymen.

Their enterprise was a wonderful one. How were they to find money for building? How were they to obtain pupils to fill up their school? How were they to find teachers for those French scholars? How could they support, year after year, such an establishment? How were they to meet the opposition of the priests?

They knew not. They could not answer those questions; but like Abraham, they trusted in God, and they said: "The Lord will provide."

They toiled, they wrote, they travelled, they begged, they prayed.

And during fifty years the Lord has provided for the support of the school and for the education there of about five thousand pupils, for their release from the errors and bondage of Rome, for the conversion to Christ of hundreds of them and of hundreds of families through their influence.

The founders: James Court, John Redpath, Rev. Dr. Taylor, John Dougall, Rev. Dr. Wilkes, have gone to their rest and to their reward. Who is going to succeed those men who have been the pioneers of this work, those generous Christians and devoted patriots?

What an honor to walk in their footsteps, to receive from their hand the sword of the Spirit, and continue the glorious battle they have fought so bravely.

It is yours, young sons of the Church, to continue the fight. Enlist your friends sound the bugle and come to the front.

It is yours, young sisters, to encourage and stimulate their valor by your gentle words, your courage and your readiness to help them.

We want to build up our country for God, and, to accomplish this, we must train good men and women, bring them up under the principles of the Gospel, and teach them how to respect the Holy Word of our Heavenly Father.

What a noble and glorious cause is before us, to give the Bible to this province! There should be none nearer to your heart.

Rev. Joseph Cook, the eminent writer from Boston, who learned French at Pointe-aux-Trembles, wrote some years ago, these remarkable words about our pupils: "These young people are the advance guard of a host who will, I hope, rescue the majestic banks of the lower St. Law-

rence from the power which, in Europe, has made the lives of so many peasant populations a prolonged childhood."

The time is coming when every intelligent member of the Church shall understand that we have a definite and distinct message for our countrymen, a message of salvation from God entrusted to us, and which we are bound to deliver to all who are ready to hear it! We need your help, dear young Friends, for carrying on this on account of the improvements we have good work: we need it this year especially, been obliged to make lately in our buildings. We need it just now. We need it for the pursuit of our work on a larger scale.

Shall we not do something corresponding to the foundation laid by those who dared to start this mission fifty years ago? Shall you not prove their worthy successors? Led by their example, stimulated by their success, the propitious time in which we live, the improving dispositions of the French Canadians, shall you not do something worthy of this generation, worthy of our Church, worthy of this saving and liberating enterprise? We need your help for meeting our present liabilities, for taking other pupils who want to be admitted, for new improvements.

Love for our Church calls us to this work. Her history is one of which we may well be proud. Her character and standing must be sustained by the fidelity of the Country. The weak stations must be strengthened, so that, as in the past, they may grow into self-supporting congregations.

Loyalty to our Master demands of us this work. His command is "Preach the Gospel to every creature." We must save our country, first for its own sake, and then for the sake of other nations. Canada christianized would hasten the conversion of the world. Every new Church we organize at home is a new source of money and missionaries, and spiritual influence for the work abroad. If a strong arm is to be stretched out to the heathen for their help, the body that lifts it cannot be feeble. Home Missions must be vigorously pushed, if Foreign Missions are to be energetically worked.

Let not this fiftieth year of the existence of our School pass away without making a special effort towards this cause, the most patriotic and the most religious, the most practical and the most ideal: which deserves the interest, the sympathy, and liberality of all the Christians of the Dominion. Let every Sabbath School and every Society of Christian Endeavour, which has not yet considered seriously the duty of giving the Gospel to their French countrymen, send a generous contribution this Christmas Season, to our Treasurer, the Rev. Dr. R. H. Warden, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

J. J. BOURGOIN, *Principal.*

Pointe-aux-Trembles, December, 1896.