

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

There was a full house at the evening **sed-runt** when the report on French Evangelization was presented by **PRINCIPAL MACVICAR**. He remarked that the work was not confined to the Province of Quebec but extended to all the Provinces of the Dominion, and in every one of these Provinces the French-speaking population was rapidly increasing. Last year the Board employed fifty-six missionary labourers, of whom twenty-one were ministers and seventeen colporteurs. They had thirteen schools with nineteen teachers and 533 pupils, of whom 203 were Roman Catholics. They had thirty-seven mission fields embracing seventy-five preaching stations. It was computed that the number of French Protestants in Canada was now 11,000, and in the United States not less than 25,000. Fifty years ago there were none at all. The income of the Board last year from all sources was \$32,606. They required and they proposed to erect new buildings at Pointes-aux-Trembles for the better equipment of their schools there. They wanted to employ more colporteurs. They would gladly have more Presbyterian interest in their work in the direction of visitation and supervision, and they earnestly asked from all, increased sympathy with the converts from Romanism.

The difficulties of the work can scarcely be over-estimated. Carried on among a people the large mass of whom we regard as thoroughly superstitious and firmly wedded to a corrupt religion, it requires strong faith, undaunted courage, and patient perseverance on the part of those engaged in it. Nowhere does the Church of Rome possess greater power and wealth than in the Province of Quebec. By means of her legalized system of tithes, and the large grants of land made to the Jesuits and other religious orders in the early history of the Province, the church has amassed enormous wealth, and, virtually controlling the Legislature, she has established herself more firmly in this Province than ever she did in France or Italy, or even, perhaps, in Spain. And at no period in the past history of the country has she been more bitterly opposed to the dissemination of God's Word, or more zealous in keeping the people in ignorance and superstition than at present. Knowing that the entrance of the Word gives light, and that this Word, applied to the heart and conscience by the Holy Spirit, is the only efficacious means of enlightening men and delivering them from spiritual thralldom, the great aim of the Board is to bring under the power of God's truth the million and a quarter French-speaking people of the Dominion, under the full conviction that the highest interests of these people, and also the future destiny of our country imperatively demand this at our hands.

Appropriate reference was made to the death of Mr. James Court of Montreal, a lifelong friend and liberal supporter of missions to the French Canadians. Mr. Armstrong's mission to Britain was spoken of as having been successful in a marked degree. Upon the whole the report now presented was one of the most encouraging which had ever been laid upon the table of the General Assembly.

MR. WRIGHT of Stratford moved the adoption of the report in a vigorous and eloquent speech, dwelling upon the great need for the work in which the Board is engaged, and the prominent position taken in connection with it by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. **MR. DOUDIET** seconded the motion with a brilliant speech. Some people complained that there are few visible results from this French Work. He could dispel that mistake. Taking from his pocket the roll of membership of his own congregation he exhibited the names and the addresses of upwards of one hundred families. On his communion roll there were the names of 116 communicants. He had nine elders and four managers. He had thirty baptisms during the year. Besides his congregation, there were four or five other French Protestant Churches in Montreal, all in a flourishing condition. This he thought entitled them to claim at least a certain amount of "visibility." Mr. Doudiet gave some very interesting illustrations of his own method of working and of the difficulties and discouragement they had to contend with. **PROFESSOR COUSSIRAT** of Montreal made a brief address with his accustomed modesty and gracefulness. It was a unique thing that the Presbyterian Church had undertaken to educate missionaries for the French work in their own language, and it was very important, because they could not expect to bring missionaries from France. The good ones, the people in France wanted to keep at home, and the bad ones, they did not want in Canada. The work in France had many attractions. It was pleasant to speak to large and sympathetic congregations, it was not so pleasant here to go out into the mission fields speaking to small assemblages with the idea that the great mass of the people around you regarded you as a "turn-coat." He was more and more convinced that the strength of this French work lay in having thoroughly educated and competent missionaries. Such men would always command respect. The work to be successful must be carried on in the spirit of love to the Roman Catholics. They are our neighbours and fellow-citizens. At the same time they must be faithful and vigilant. The Jesuits by whom they were surrounded were ever on the alert: if we do not succeed in destroying their system of error and superstition, Jesuitism will destroy us.