

CHAPTER III.

Some of the Difficulties in Bringing the New Canadian to Christ

There are 1,920,000 New Canadians, nearly two millions, living in Canada. Surely those who love Christ must feel the great responsibility of introducing this army of strangers to Him.

What are some of the difficulties in bringing these non-English-speaking people to Jesus Christ?

- (1) NATIONALISM.—In most of the countries from which these people come here is a State or national church. They were taught from their childhood that those who abandon the national church—the Serbians for example—are not good Serbians any more. In order to be a good Serbian, Hungarian, etc., they must abide in the religion of their father and mother which, of course, is that of the national church. When I approach these strangers with the true Gospel of Christ as the Baptists believe it, many times I am told that I am Canadianized and am not a good Roumanian any more; and that I am fooled by the Canadian people who have the intention of making all strangers Canadians, and not Christians. So you can see how difficult it is to present to them the Gospel, for you see in their opinion I am really striving to make them both renegades to their church and traitors to their native country.
- (2) DENOMINATIONAL DIVISIONS.—As we present the Gospel to these strangers, they ask us, Who is right, the Baptists or the United Church, or the Anglicans? If we say that the Baptists are the nearest to the principles taught by the New Testament, they say, "How is it then you Baptists are not more loyal to your beliefs? You believe in the sanctity of the Lord's Day, you are saying, but if there is any business you have to attend to on that day you simply say it is impossible to neglect it. Did the primitive Christians compromise like that?" they ask. "Then after all there is not much difference between you Baptists and the rest of the sects."