

stations. It is peculiarly difficult to maintain schools here on account of the fact that the land is not settled in blocks as in Canada, but only along the banks of the river, hence to collect children sufficient to make up a tolerable school they must come from long distances up and down the river. Then, there are no bridges across the river, and children coming from the opposite side of the river from the school house must (in the summer) be crossed in canoes, which is not always very safe. Will Canada not help us to lay the foundations of a new colony, broad and deep, by a system thorough education for the young.

In the congregations we feel encouraged. Sore trials and bereavements have been manifestly sanctified, and we hope that a spirit of greater seriousness is beginning to pervade the young as well as the old. We need the prayers of God's people in Canada. "Brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you."

My dear Brother, Yours most sincerely,

JAMES NISBET.

MISSION FIELD OF QUEBEC.

KNOX COLLEGE, 17th Dec., 1863.

¶ To the Editor of the Record.

I had long desired to pay a visit in summer to the mission field of Quebec, and generally to the Eastern Townships. Circumstances prevented my doing this, till this year's recess of college, when, at the request of our much esteemed friend, Mr. Clark, I devoted seven weeks in autumn to the work. Two of the Sabbaths during this period, I spent at Montreal, supplying the pulpits of our friends Messrs. McVicar and Kemp, during their temporary absence from the city. A visit to the commercial capital of our Province (as Montreal unquestionably is) is always interesting, and peculiarly so in a moral and religious view. The city is rapidly on the increase in population and wealth. Its near vicinity to the States, its valuable railway communication with Portland, and its ocean intercourse with Britain, and its many mercantile and commercial advantages give it, with almost moral certainty, the prestige of the "New York of the North." Alas! it is the stronghold of Popery; and yet Protestantism is nominally, let us hope really, on the increase.

The Protestant Church is, generally speaking, in a healthy state; and the friends of Christ, though sectionally divided, love one another. There are able ministers in all the Churches, and there have been of late pleasing revivals; and the noble Institution of McGill College, under the superintendence of an accomplished, liberal-minded, and pious Principal, aided by a thoroughly qualified staff of Professors, is a prominently pleasing feature in the moral picture. The *Grande Ligne Mission*, and the *Institute at Pointe aux Trembles*, are refreshing exceptions to the general apathy of Protestants in Canada to the claims of the numerous victims of a degrading superstition.

The British Commercial mind in this city is highly enlightened, and intelligence on all subjects of mercantile and international interest, is steadily diffusing itself among all classes in the community.

I spent three Sabbaths in Quebec, and as one of these was the Communion season, a pleasing opportunity was presented of holding Christian fellowship with the pastor, office-bearers, and members of Chalmers Church. Mr. Clark, formerly of Maxwelltown, near Dumfries, Scotland, has been Minister of the congregation which meets in this handsome edifice, for more than ten years. The field of labour is a most interesting one; but ministers of Christ placed in the very centre of the stronghold of Popery, have multiplied difficulties to struggle with. The moral atmosphere all around is chilled, while it is surcharged with clouds, heavy and depressing. The love of professing Protestants waxes cold amid the overwhelming obtrusions of an imposing anti-Christ.