

BOARD OF FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

(Continued.)

XII.—ST. HYACINTHE, QUEBEC.

The French Protestant congregation in this city was a little over a year ago taken under the care of the Board, and its pastor, the Rev. R. P. Duclos, was duly received by last General Assembly as a minister of our Church. The congregation then worshipped in the Chapel of the Ladies' French Protestant College, an institution established by Mr. Duclos several years ago. In the providence of God the College building was destroyed by fire last September. With commendable zeal the congregation at once secured the use of the Town Hall for the Sabbath services, in which place they have since been held. Circumstances prevented the re-building of the College, and Mr. Duclos on the appointment of the Board consented to assume charge of the French Church in Quebec. During the winter months St. Hyacinthe was regularly supplied every Sabbath by French Theological students from the Montreal Presbyterian College, and the services were well maintained. At the close of the College Session Mr. C. E. Amaron was appointed to labour in this field for the summer. He reports increasing interest and increased attendance at the Sabbath services, five additional French Protestant families having recently moved into St. Hyacinthe. Feeling very much the want of a church edifice, the Board encouraged the congregation to build. An eligible lot has been purchased for \$1,200, and the contract has just been let for the erection of a commodious brick church, 56x37 feet in size, to cost a little over \$3,000. The people themselves subscribed about \$1,100, most of which has already been paid. The Board made a grant of \$500, and the Presbytery of Montreal \$100, in aid of the building, and an appeal is at present being made to friends of the mission for assistance. The basement of the church is to be occupied as a day school for the education of the children connected with the mission. Notwithstanding the heavy burden upon them in connection with the church building, the people have themselves assumed the entire expense of the teacher's salary, besides contributing a considerable portion of the salary of the missionary. They have recently adopted the weekly offering system, which promises to be most successful. Mr. Amaron preaches twice each Sabbath, one of the services being conducted in English for the benefit of the few English-speaking families in the city. The services are well attended notwithstanding the somewhat unsuitable building in which they are at present held, and the Board cherish the hope that on the completion of the church and the settlement of a faithful pastor the congregation will rapidly increase, and ere the lapse of many years become self-supporting. St. Hyacinthe is the centre of a large and prosperous section of country, and had the Board sufficient men and money at their disposal they would at once open several stations in its vicinity with, they are assured, the most encouraging prospects of success.

XIII.—ST. VALERIEN, QUEBEC.

This is a new field to which the Board has sent a missionary, Mr. S. T. Ami, for the first time this spring. It is situated about twelve miles from St. Hyacinthe in the midst of a well-to-do agricultural community. There are here six French and one English-speaking Protestant families to whom Mr. Ami ministers every Lord's Day, besides visiting the homes of Roman Catholics and instructing the children of the Protestants. He reports visiting a village, Egypt de Milton, four miles from St. Valerien, where he found three French families nominally Protestant. The Board trust that the result of Mr. Ami's labours this summer will be the gathering in of some of the Roman Catholics of the district and the establishment of a permanent mission of the Church in this field.

XIV.—ST. ANTOINE ABBE, QUEBEC.

As stated in last year's Report, Mr. S. Pettis, one of the farmers of the district, gratuitously deeded an acre of ground to the Board for the erection of mission premises. For several reasons the erection of the building has been delayed, but the Board are now glad to report that the work approaches completion, and the building will be ready for occupation this month. It is a frame structure, on a stone foundation, neat, but comfortable, and well adapted for the purposes of the mission. Here the mission day and Sabbath schools will meet, and the Sabbath services be held. The missionary teacher during the present

summer is Mr. T. Saindon, one of the Montreal Presbyterian College students. Till the new building is ready for occupation he has the use of a room in Mr. Pettis' house, where the school and services are conducted.

XV.—ST. JEAN CHRYSOSTOM, QUEBEC.

Last summer Mr. Joseph Morin labored in this and the St. Antoine Abbe field. The missionary this summer is Mr. W. Mullins, one of the most devoted colporteurs of the Board. Mr. Mullins having resolved to consecrate his life to the work of French Evangelization, for which he seems well qualified, entered the Montreal College last fall with the view of becoming one of the regular missionaries of the Board. In a recent report he gives the names of all the French Protestants in this field, numbering eighty, some of whom are widely scattered from each other. He estimates the number of French Catholics in the district at about two thousand, a few of whom appear to be well disposed, but the large majority bitterly opposed to his work. Among the French Protestants are found some very poor, others in comfortable circumstances, and one or two considered wealthy. Mr. Mullins expects they will contribute a fair proportion of his salary. He preaches in the morning of every Sabbath in French at St. Antoine Abbe,—average attendance from twenty-five to thirty—and in the afternoon alternately in French and English at St. Jean Chrysostom, to an audience of about forty. At St. Isidore, where there are five French Protestant families, he gives occasional service on Sabbath evening.

There is a Protestant day school at St. Jean Chrysostom with an attendance of twenty, of whom five are the children of Roman Catholics. Mr. Mullins is an earnest, indefatigable worker, visiting on an average from fifteen to twenty families weekly, with some of whom he spends hours "reading (to use his own words) the New Testament and teaching the doctrine of salvation by grace in contradistinction to dead works, avoiding controversy as much as possible."

Mr. Mullins closes his report as follows: "Several of the older French Protestants in this field have suffered bitter persecution, their lives have been frequently threatened, and their property injured, but in the midst of all they have sternly clung to their Protestant principles and to the Bible. The old people are fast passing away and it behooves us to care for the young, and lead them to Jesus. I believe, if this field is thoroughly worked, that the day is not far distant when it will become a flourishing and, to a considerable extent, a self-supporting mission. However this may be it is ours to be faithful to present duty, leaving results with Him who does not despise the day of small things and who has said, 'My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.'"

XVI.—LA TORTUE, QUE.

The Board having only recently (in April) sent a missionary to this field are unable to report fully as to its prospects. The missionary, Mr. T. A. Bouchard, owing to the disagreeable weather and the almost impassable roads this spring, had not been able at the date of his last report to thoroughly canvass the district. He has, however, already met with six families of French Protestants with whom he has held services attended by nineteen persons. La Tortue is in the county of Laprairie, about six miles distant from the village of that name, where we have a Home Mission Station. That station is so very weak and the field so circumscribed, that it has received no supply for nearly two years from the Presbytery of Montreal. Mr. Bouchard being able to conduct services both in English and French, it is hoped that the English-speaking station at Laprairie may be revived, and that in connection with it there may grow up a strong French mission at La Tortue.

XVII.—JOLIETTE, QUE.

In last year's report reference was made to the fact that the French Protestant congregation of Joliette had asked to be received into connection with our Church, and that negotiations were then in progress towards the accomplishment of that end. These negotiations were satisfactorily completed, and the congregation has been under the care of the Board since last July. The Rev. L. Dionne was immediately appointed to supply the field. After laboring there for three months the congregation, encouraged by the Board, applied to the Presbytery for a moderation in a call, and on the eighteenth of October last Mr.

Dionne was, by the Presbytery of Montreal, ordained and inducted as pastor of this French charge.

Here we have a large substantial brick church, with pastor's residence in the upper flat, though the latter is not yet finished for occupation. A mission day school with twenty-four pupils is held in one part of the church building. It is conducted by Miss Vessott, the daughter of one of our missionaries, her salary being entirely paid by the congregation. This is the *only Protestant Church and the only Protestant school* in Joliette, a town of nearly 4000 inhabitants. In addition to the French there are a few English-speaking Protestants for whose benefit Mr. Dionne preaches in English once every Lord's day. At the French services there are almost invariably a few Roman Catholics present. On the Sabbath school roll there are twenty-five names. Some of the French Catholics recently told our missionary that *there were more Protestants in Joliette than he imagined*, the fear of persecution keeping them from openly renouncing Romanism. Not only in Joliette but in many other parts of Quebec, there are, it is believed, not a few of the Lord's hidden ones. May the day soon come when grace will be given to enable many a Nicodemus and many a Joseph publicly to avow themselves on the Lord's side.

XVIII.—LAKE MASKINONGE, QUE.

In the neighborhood of this Lake, which is situated in the county of Berthier, one of the missionaries of the Board has been colporting since the end of April, meeting with a cordial welcome at the hands of a few French Protestant families in the district, and gaining access to the homes of several French Catholics. The Board have just learned that a petition is being signed by several families at St. Gabriel, Lake Maskinonge, and De Ramsay, ten miles distant from St. Gabriel, and midway between it and Joliette, praying that a missionary be sent and regular preaching stations opened at these places. The distance from Joliette to the city of Quebec is about 150 miles, a district thickly settled almost entirely by French. In that whole district there is not on the north side of the St. Lawrence a single congregation or mission station of our Church with the solitary exception of Three Rivers.

XIX.—NEW GLASGOW, QUE.

There is no incident of any importance to report in connection with this field. Mr. C. E. Amaron labored here last summer, and Mr. A. B. Cruchet is the present missionary, services being held in French and English every Sabbath. During the winter months service was kept up every Sabbath by means of students from the Montreal Presbyterian College. The congregation are at present taking steps to call a pastor, one able to minister to the people in both languages, and there is a prospect of a desirable settlement during the present summer.

XX.—ST. MARTIN AND ST. DOROTHEE, QUEBEC.

These places are situated in the county of Laval (Isle Jesu) about fifteen miles from Montreal. Learning that there were several French Protestant families in these districts, the Board appointed Mr. Joseph L. Morin to labor there for the present summer. He reports six French Protestant families in the field, with an attendance of eighteen at his Sabbath service and ten at the Sabbath school. Mr. Morin speaks of the field as a very difficult, and, in some respects, a discouraging one. He says: "In the earlier days of French Evangelization many missionaries have trodden all about Isle Jesu, and there is perhaps not a house where the gospel has not been offered, and yet the people seem more fanatical, more bigoted than those who have never had the opportunity to receive the truth. The few Protestants here are very sincere and good Christians."

XXI.—BELLE RIVIERE, QUEBEC.

At Belle Riviere, about fifteen or sixteen miles distant from St. Martin, there is a French Protestant congregation, formerly connected with the French Canadian Missionary Society, with a good church property. The congregation desire to be taken under the care of the Board, and their present missionary, Rev. W. Groulx, a graduate of Knox College, Toronto, has recently applied to the Presbytery of Montreal to be received as a minister of our Church.

XXII.—GRENVILLE, QUEBEC.

This field has enjoyed the faithful services of the Rev. R. Hamilton during the whole year. Mr. Hamilton was licensed in July last, and in the month of