

taining to a great extent, along with their language and religion, the habits and customs which their ancestors, more than two hundred years ago, brought with them from France, they have, upon the whole, been a simple minded, honest and non-progressive people. Of course, the great body of them are Roman Catholics and for a very long time will probably remain so. Yet openings have not been wanting—and have been eagerly embraced, to effect an entrance for plain gospel truth among them. Our own church in Canada has done and is doing something in that direction—other bodies also are not mere spectators. The remarkable influence of Father Chiniqui in bringing over a whole district to the Protestant faith is well known, though there seems to be something connected with the history of that event not altogether satisfactory.

For the following sketch of the state of Missions among the French Canadians we are indebted to the Canadian *Presbyterian* :—

"About 30 years ago the Rev. K. Olivier, his lady and two young ministers were sent from Lausanne in Switzerland as missionaries to the North American Indians. They came to Lower Canada in order to obtain some information respecting their future field of labor. Here they found plunged in the superstitions of popery a numerous population speaking their language, who had almost as much need of the Gospel as the heathen to whom they were going. Mr. and Mrs. Olivier believed it to be their duty to remain with the French Canadians, while Messrs. Gavin and Dentan went to labor among the Sioux Indians.

During Mr. and Mrs. Olivier's sojourn in Montreal, two of their Christian friends, the Rev. L. Roussy and Mrs. Feller, came to join them, when a few persons left the Romish Church to embrace the Gospel. But Mr. Olivier, not being able to endure the severity of the Canadian climate, was obliged to return to Europe with his lady. Mr. and Mrs. Feller remained in Canada and finally settled at Grande Ligne. Their labors were blessed by their Heavenly Master, so that at the present time the Baptist Society of Grande Ligne preach the Word of salvation throughout many parishes. There are 6 ministers and several other laborers, they possess 2 educational institutions, and 3 churches have been erected through their instrumentality.

At the sight of the success of the efforts made by Mr. & Mrs. Olivier and the missionaries of Grande Ligne the charity of several of the English-speaking Christians was excited to a godly jealousy, and though the evangelization of the French Canadian Romanists was still considered by many persons as utopian, they had faith, love and zeal enough to establish in 1836 the French Canadian Missionary Society, whose committee is composed of members of the different evangelical churches of Montreal.

Notwithstanding the numerous obstacles

which the missionaries of that Society have encountered their labors have been efficient. By their means many families have left the teachings of men to follow the Word of God, and the Gospel continues to be preached in many places. They have 2 flourishing educational institutions at Pointe-aux-Trembles, from which place pupils are already scattered throughout the country, and a church has been built at Belle Riviere.

In 1840 or 1841 the Presbyterian Church of Canada began also to evangelize their fellow-subjects of French origin. By the exertions of one of their missionaries, the Rev. E. Lapelletrie, a French Presbyterian congregation was organized in Montreal, and money to build a church was collected. But, Mr. Lapelletrie's health obliging him to return to France, where he died, his work was continued by the French Canadian Missionary Society.

Some years after the Episcopal Church put also a hand to that work of love, and they too had success. They have built a church and an educational institution at Sabrevois, and have now 4 young men studying for the ministry.

Later the Wesleyan Church entered this important field and have been blessed in it. They occupy 5 missionary stations, preach salvation by Christ in various places and have built a church at Roxton Falls. One of their evangelists, who is preparing for the ministry, is a former pupil of Pointe-aux-Trembles, and another was formerly a French Canadian priest.

The effect of these various efforts is now becoming apparent. There are a good number of families in Lower and Upper Canada who have left the fables of Rome to follow the truth as it is in Jesus, while many have gone to the United States to avoid persecution. 6 French Canadian ministers of the Gospel are preaching it to their countrymen in the Lower Province. Of others who have the same object in view, 4 are pursuing their studies in Geneva (Switzerland), 4 at Lennoxville College, 2 in Toronto, 2 in Alleghany College, 1 in Quebec, 1 in New England; and there may be others of whom I do not know, besides those who are under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Chiniqui in Illinois.

20 years ago missionaries were looked upon as emissaries of the bad spirit, whom people would have joyfully destroyed, had they not feared the Courts of Justice. Now only a small proportion of them are still afraid to speak with us and those who approve of persecution have considerably diminished.

Even the priests have been somewhat influenced. Formerly their great doctrine was, "Out of the Roman Catholic Church there is no salvation;" they burned Bibles and gloried in the deed. Now very few of them would dare be openly guilty of such an outrage, and there are some who tell the people that the Bible is the word of God, and that persons