

IV. ITS PRESENT NEEDS.

Not a word need be added to enforce the claims of this important branch of Home Mission work. Without for a moment blaming those large-hearted Christians who send thousands of dollars to France to help the McAll Mission, may it not be asked whether the home work should not first be attended to? The Romanism which made France an infidel nation is sure to work similar results in the 300,000 French Canadian Romanists of the New England states. Better a thousand times to reach them with the Gospel before the religious feeling has been destroyed than after. All true Christians who give this subject a moment's thought, understand that this work cannot wisely be neglected. Too long already has the mistake been made of regarding Romanism as simply one among the Christian denominations of this land. A Protestant Christian nation readily grants such a position, but Rome knows well that in this position she cannot hold her own. Therefore she must take measures to overthrow your free institutions because she cannot stand their influence; and while hundreds of Americans say, "She cannot overthrow our institutions," she is building herself up, she is taking successful means to withdraw the mass of her people from those influences which are inimical to the spirit that has always governed her.

Shall we, because we have the power, take up arms and crush her, as she did where and when she had the ascendancy? God forbid. The Gospel has taught us better things. Yet we shall and we must say to her if we are worthy of Christ and of our blood-bought privileges: "You do not preach the truths of the Gospel as Christ did. The results of your teachings have not been good. Recognizing the good you have done to the world, especially in those days when your doctrines were comparatively pure, we are forced by facts to declare that you cannot make a people great and good. We, therefore, as men, first, and then as Christians, are in duty bound to offer to all who seek a home within our borders, those glorious liberties and truths which the Bible has taught us and which have made our nation what it is. 'Yet the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.'" Can we afford to wait until the 175,000 French Canadians of Massachusetts have learned English to give them the Gospel? If so you shall wait until the vast majority have become skeptics and have gone to swell the tide of the lapsed masses already too large.

But how can the work be done? By earnest, devoted, God-fearing missionaries, who shall go all over the state with the message of salvation. Very well, says the Christian giver, send such a man here