

Ministers. In houses to which neither Mr. Paradis nor I can have access, she is welcomed, and is permitted to read and pray, because though some people don't care to insult a man, they have respect for a woman, and she is always well received."

IV.—ST. FRANCIS, NEW BRUNSWICK.

As reported to last Assembly the Board appointed Mr. S. T. Ami to labor in this district with a view to test its capabilities. After spending three months in the field, Mr. Ami returned on account of ill-health. He reports that the people, who are chiefly on the American side of the line, are almost all English speaking, and that those who have French, understand English equally well. The Board did not therefore feel justified in sending another Missionary, and have since learned that an English speaking Protestant Minister is now laboring in the field.

V.—STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA.

This field, which is within the bounds of the Presbytery of Pictou, was ministered to by the Rev. E. D. Pelletier, for several years. On the removal of Mr. Pelletier to St. Anne, last fall, the Rev. T. Brouillette was appointed to succeed him. On leaving the field, Mr. Pelletier furnished the Board with a brief resumé of his work. The following is an extract: "When the French people came to this district they were all Roman Catholics; now the large majority are Protestants. When they came, not one had a Bible; now a Bible can be found in almost every house. Some of the families who were with us are now in the County of Ottawa, at Namur (where the Board has a prosperous mission). They are not only good Protestants, but I am confident true Christians. The same may be said of others gone to the Western States and others returned to France. These people will carry the good seed wherever they go. Is there not reason for joy and thankfulness to think that those who were so recently without light can now enjoy it freely?"

The French settlers in this field are all miners, and heretofore have been dependent for support on the coal mines in the district. Owing to the depression of business, most of the mines have been closed, and many of the settlers have had to look elsewhere for work. The population in this way has been considerably diminished. Many are, however, expected to return when business revives. Partly through the efforts of our present Missionary and on petition of fifteen French families, the Local Government has granted, free of charge, two thousand acres of good land, within easy reach of the mines. Mr. Brouillette reports, "Our little flock at present consists of 149 converts, viz: sixty-eight parents, seventy-five children, and six unmarried men. There are eighteen Roman Catholic families, one-half of whom are favorably disposed towards myself and the Gospel."

Two services are held each Sabbath—the morning one in the Albion Company's school-house, the evening one in the Rev. Mr. Bruce's church at Vale Colliery. There is a Sabbath School at Stellarton—"a living school"—taught and superintended by earnest converts, also a Bible class, conducted by a talented convert, who has had a collegiate education, and who desires to consecrate himself to the work of French Evangelization. In Mr. Brouillette's report for the month of November, the following is related. "Two whole families I verily believe have been born to God. They seem to *live* upon the Scriptures, and of them it may truly be said, 'Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law do they meditate day and night.' I called on one of those families last week, early in the evening, and found the father, not black with coal dust as I expected to find him at that hour, but clean, Bible in hand, sitting by the fire dictating verses to his four children, who were writing them down on books for that purpose and committing them to memory. This is their daily practice."

VI.—ANTIGONISH COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA.

At the solicitation of the Presbytery of Pictou, the Board, last November, sent a colporteur, Mr. Calvin Cruchet—to explore the French settlements in this county. He made his headquarters at Aston, in the vicinity of which are Tracadie, Little Tracadie, Pomquet Forks and Harbor Bouche, districts containing a large French population. The field is a most difficult one—one requiring the services of an experienced colporteur of more than ordinary prudence and patience and Christian zeal. Mr. Cruchet has labored for six months apparently without success. The Rev. T. Brouillette visited the field and spent two weeks with

Mr. Cruchet in January. In referring to his visit he thus writes: "This is a most difficult field. We have met with decided opposition, and the results are anything but cheering. Think of two of us walking yesterday ten miles, calling at twelve houses, and only permitted to hold a conversation in one of them." He sums up the fortnight's work with this remark:—"In *one* house we had the privilege of presenting some truths in a manner acceptable, and, let us hope, profitable to our five or six hearers, and that fact alone is refreshing."

VII.—POINTE-AUX-BOULEAUX AND PORT AU PERSIL, Q.

These stations, which are about twenty-one miles apart, lie on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, between the two well-known summer resorts, Tadoussac and Murray Bay. To a considerable extent this section of country was originally settled by Scotch, the Government giving free grants of land to some Highland regiments of soldiers who had completed their term of service. Had a Protestant missionary accompanied them to their new home, it is difficult to estimate what the result, under God, might have been in that and the wide districts of country surrounding. Their spiritual interests, however, were entirely neglected by the Church of their fathers, and as a consequence they became lukewarm and indifferent, intermarried with French Catholics, had their children baptized and brought up in connection with the Church of Rome, and to-day the saddening spectacle is there witnessed of the descendants of Scotch Presbyterians—men bearing the names of Macneill, Maclean, Macdonald, Mactavish, etc.—not only unable to speak a word of English, but, what is unspeakably more saddening, utterly ignorant of the Protestant faith.

For the last three or four years the Board has had a missionary in this field during the summer months, his time being equally divided between the two stations. In addition to the Sabbath services the missionary has taught a Mission Day School for three months at Port au Persil and three months at Pointe-aux-Bouleaux. The number of children at the latter place being much greater than at the former, the missionary this summer—Mr. Alf Blouin—will teach the whole six months at Pointe-aux-Bouleaux, dividing his Sabbath work between the two stations. The attendance at the day school is twenty, and the Sabbath attendance from twenty-five to thirty in each place. With one solitary exception (a French missionary at Chicoutimi) Mr. Blouin is the only missionary of any Protestant denomination on the north side of the St. Lawrence River in that wide stretch of country from the Quebec District to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a distance of several hundred miles.

At Chicoutimi there is a Protestant congregation, composed of French and English-speaking people, organized by the French Canadian Missionary Society. Recently, overtures were made to the Board to receive the mission, but owing to a dispute between certain parties and the congregation as to the Church property, the Board deemed it inexpedient to take any action in the meantime. There is a prospect of the mission coming into our hands before long.

VIII.—QUEBEC CITY.

As stated in last year's report, the Rev. B. Ournere, French Lecturer in the Montreal Presbyterian College, temporarily supplied the French congregation in this city during the whole of last summer. His services were highly appreciated, and deep regret was expressed at the necessity of his leaving the field in September to resume his college duties. The Board, however, were fortunate in being able at this important juncture to secure the services of an experienced missionary in the person of Rev. R. P. Duclos. At considerable personal sacrifice, Mr. Duclos consented to move from St. Hyacinthe to Quebec, where he has labored since October with some measure of success.

Services are held by him regularly every Sabbath morning and evening in the commodious French church erected by the Quebec friends last year. The attendance varies from 40 to 120; the average number present at the morning service being 42, and at the evening one upwards of 60. At the latter several Roman Catholics invariably are present, as many as thirty having on more than one occasion been in attendance. During the winter Mr. Duclos delivered a number of lectures on week evenings, the attendance at which was good and the interest encouraging.

In a recent report he gives the names of all the families connected with the Church. Of these, twenty-four persons (including young and old) were added

during the year just ended. Concerning the temporal circumstances of the congregation, Mr. Duclos says that while none are rich, none but two are in very poor circumstances. He adds: "The work in Quebec is evidently difficult; nevertheless it has grown slowly and steadily, and I believe the future has days of triumph in store for the work of French Evangelization in this city. Those days would be much hastened if Protestant employers would only give the preference to converts, provided they were as capable for the work as other applicants."

The English-speaking friends in Quebec have during the year implemented their engagement with the Board by contributing \$600 towards the salary of the missionary, for which thanks are due and are hereby cordially expressed.

IX.—ST. PAUL DE CHESTER, QUEBEC.

One of the student missionaries of the Board occupied this field last summer. Owing partly to the poverty of the soil and partly to persecution, several of the few French Protestants here have left and taken up land for themselves and their families in the neighboring township of Wotton, where the Board have opened a new station this summer to be worked in connection with Chester.

X.—WOTTON, QUE.

As stated above this is a new Mission field, hereafter to be worked in connection with St. Paul de Chester, from which it is distant about ten or twelve miles. A few French Protestant families have very recently settled here. The missionary of the Board, Mr. A. L. Guertin, has opened a School in one of their houses with somewhat hopeful prospects, and is encouraged to believe that some of the Roman Catholic families will attend it as well as his Sabbath services. One of the French converts offers gratuitously a site on which to erect mission premises. The Board will, however, await the result of the summer's work before taking action in the way of erecting a church.

XI.—DANVILLE, QUE.

In September last the Rev. M. F. Boudreau, one of the French-speaking graduates of the Montreal Presbyterian College, was ordained and inducted to the pastorate of the congregation here. He preaches in English every Sabbath morning in Danville, in Kingsy Falls in the afternoon, and conducts a French service in Danville in the evening. His French Bible-class is well attended, and has been a means of strengthening the faith of some of the converts, and of conveying instruction to the Roman Catholics who occasionally attend. Mr. Boudreau takes a general supervision of the French missions at Wotton and Chester, and occasionally visits other districts in the neighborhood in the interests of French Evangelization. His reports during the year give interesting details of his work, and afford evidence that his instructions in public and also in private conversations with enquirers are already beginning to bear fruit, several Roman Catholics during the year having severed their connection with the Church of Rome and professed their faith in Christ.

One of the student missionaries of the Board is at present engaged, under the auspices of the Quebec Bible Society, in colporting among the French along the line of the Grand Trunk Railway between Danville and Point Levis. He reports encouraging success in his work.

(To be continued.)

THE SABBATH A FRIEND.

1. To *Educator*.—Compare countries with and without the Sabbath. Its ministrations powerfully quicken and invigorate the human intellect, while a vast amount of knowledge is communicated.

2. To *Government*.—Where are the honored Sabbath and despotism co-existent? It shows the nature of human rights—adapts laws to actual wants and circumstances of men—creates a conscience that sustains laws and qualifies men to make, as well as obey, laws.

3. To *Health*.—By promoting cleanliness—by furnishing needful rest for body and mind—by promoting cheerfulness and elasticity of spirits through its power to produce a peaceful conscience—by its subduing influence over the hateful passions of men.

Therefore the Sabbath is the friend of the nation, the family, every man's friend, and never fails to repay true and devoted friendship for it with the most precious blessings for time and eternity.