

AN ANGLO-FRENCH MINISTRY.

In the January number of this journal, last session, there appeared an article in which the writer strongly advocated the claims of French evangelization on the English-speaking students of this college. He even urged, as a great ally to this work, that it should be made a rule of this college, that all the graduates which she sends out should be able to converse fluently in both French and English. Now, as one of those who are so unfortunate as not to know any more French than perhaps enough to carry on half-a-minute's conversation, I am very much interested in this article, and begin to ask myself the question, should I prepare myself for this special work, or not?

The argument he puts forward is a very plausible one indeed, viz., that of there being many communities in this province, where the English-speaking element is decreasing, and as a consequence of this, the Protestant cause is becoming weaker year by year, and in order to hold its ground is compelled to draw very heavily on the mission funds of the church. 'Would not,' he asks, 'a man who can preach in both languages be an absolute necessity for such a place?' Now it has been my happy experience to labor for two summers in such fields as he describes, and so I was placed in a position to learn some of their needs. It is not necessary for me to say that my principal work was done among the English-speaking people, but then I often came in contact with the French and never hesitated to speak to them, to try to influence them in the right direction. As far as I was able to judge, the large majority of them were able to speak English, and those who could not speak it, understood it very well. From necessity, they had to come in

contact with business men who did not understand the language of their fathers, and in this way the greater number of the young people had acquired a fair knowledge of the English language.

But it may be objected by some that such cases are the exception, not the rule, and that, while a missionary who could not speak both languages might be able to do very good work where English influence is decreasing, yet there are many places where a knowledge of the French language is an absolute necessity.

If such be so, why not send a French missionary to a field of this description? In addition to the students who are now in training for this work, there seems to be an ample supply of ordained French missionaries, and why not place them over these congregations instead of compelling them, when they have finished their college course here, to seek employment in the neighboring republic? Surely some inducement ought to be offered these men to settle here and devote themselves to the work for which they have been specially prepared, and not, through force of circumstances, be compelled to give up a work which they dearly love. These are the men whose services the Church in Canada should be anxious to retain to work in mixed communities, who because of their special talents would be calculated to do the most good. Now because of this I am convinced that it would not be to the advantage of French evangelization or the Church at large to make it compulsory for all the graduates of this college to speak French, for the simple reason that I believe the fields which the writer of that article speaks about, are not so much in need of men who can preach in both