

# Palm Branch.

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OCTOBER, 1894.

Our prayer subjects this month are "French Canadian civilization—the work of the Institute, day schools and Bible women in Montreal." Most important subjects, relating as they do to evils in our own land and the methods employed with God's help to put them down. We who love our country and long to see it prosper in the very best sense of the word know it is impossible while such evils exist, while such a large part of the population does not enjoy what we prize, or ought to prize more than anything else in the world, religious liberty. We rejoice that so much is being done to bring about a better state of things. So let us pray with all our hearts that the entrance of God's word may give light, as He says it will. There is so much in our paper this month on this subject that it is not necessary for us to say more, but we will give a portion of Madame Dalpe's very excellent and comprehensive address read before our last Branch Meeting. It is especially interesting and effective because written by one who has lived most of her life in the midst of these evils and knows well where of she speaks.

## French Missions.

BY MADAME DALPE.

One cannot have lived amongst the Roman Catholics without wishing with all their hearts to see them freed from their yoke of superstition and idolatry. There are 1,171,000 French in the Province of Quebec and of the latter only 10,000 are Protestants. Think of 1,161,000 persons not allowed to think for themselves, taught to believe that by a few words, the priest is able to turn a little piece of dough, called the wafer, into the body, blood and divinity of our Saviour; obliged to pray to the

Virgin and take her as the mediator between God and man, when St. Paul says: "There is only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." Time will only permit me to mention some of their errors, such as supremacy of the pope—the invocation of saints—the power of the priest to forgive sins—the sale of pardons and indulgences. But suppose they had only the error of believing that after death they are going to burn in the fires of purgatory, would you not do all in your power to give them the blessed hope we have of falling asleep in Jesus to rise victorious on resurrection day? To make them know that we cannot earn heaven? If you could witness the joy of those who leave the church of Rome to come to the light, it would stimulate you to greater zeal in this noble cause. They devour the Gospel so to speak, they read it, they memorize it, they defend it with a zeal that silences the enemies of the truth. I have often heard my father say, that my grand parents would sit up part of nights to read a new testament that had been given them!

If you visit the Province of Quebec you will see that the greater part of the wealth is in the hands of the clergy. They build magnificent churches, while all around are as a rule, small houses in which live a people who have hard work to make a living. In one of the Roman Catholic churches in Montreal there is a picture representing purgatory as a great sea of flames, in which millions are writhing in agony; some have parts of their bodies and others only their heads out, thus intimating that more prayers need to be said to get them out entirely. You can imagine the effect such a picture would have upon the people. It would make them give money, no matter how poor they are, to get their loved ones out of suffering. The last time I was at home a poor, old woman came and asked me write a letter to her two sons in the States, to tell them that their father was dead and ask them to send money to have prayers said to get his soul out of purgatory. I said to her "Madame if I were the priest and I believed I could take your husband's soul out of purgatory, I should not wait until you went to the States and got the money, I would pray, pray night and day to get him out of suffering!"

From tithes, taxes, pew rents, fees for sacraments, masses for the dead, the Roman Catholic clergy in the city of Quebec receives the immense sum of \$8,000,000 per annum! At the opening of St. Peter's cathedral among other things, a ticket for heaven was sold for 25cts! To bring about a better state of things you must educate the people to think for themselves and you can by establishing colleges and day schools, and sending out col-