

five dollars contributed insured *one seat* for a working man or woman, for 365 days, with all the evangelical influences of preaching, teaching, prayer, and other services throughout the year. If anything outside the Moravian Missions can show results of expenditure in excess of this, we know not where to look.

This is my fourth visit to Paris, and the last three times I have addressed meetings from once to thrice a day. The halls have been crowded with audiences as decorous and attentive, and even enthusiastic as I have ever addressed anywhere. There is an eagerness, an expectancy, a patience, an absorbed attentiveness, which indicate a rare preparation of mind and heart for gospel truth. In fact, in these McAll Missions the ordinary conditions seem to be largely reversed. Commonly the difficulty is, having a place of assembly, to get it filled; here the difficulty is rather to find places of assembly enough to hold the people. Superstition, corrupt religion, priest-craft, have done their work here; the people have swung away from Imperialism to republicanism, and from clericalism toward indifferentism. They have largely, as a prominent French woman phrases it, "lost their faith," and, though nominally adherents of the Roman Catholic Church, the bulk of the French working classes are "free thinkers," by which they mean that they have swept away the barriers and bonds of their former creed, and now are *free to think* for themselves.

It is a golden day of opportunity for the Protestant Church in France, to give the pure and simple gospel to the common people. With much sorrow we have learned of the closing of *thirteen salles* of the McAll Missions for lack of funds. This implies positive disaster, for each hall is a rallying and radiating point for the Christian workers to meet and to disperse for wider activity. Round these *salles* gather all the beneficent influences of worship, preaching and teaching, Bible classes, converts' meetings, mothers' meetings, children's schools, etc. To close a *salle* is to dismiss workers, shut out the eager crowds, and, in a word, abandon a station which has been like a new fortress on the border of the enemy's country. Every opening door demands expansion, and retrenchment is a double evil, for it means not only non-expansion, but actual contraction. Had Dr. McAll to-day \$500,000 and 500 new laborers, he could use every dollar and employ every worker inside of six months! The Government looks with favor upon the work, as the Prefect of Police said, "Every new McAll station means a *reduction of police force*."

While we write all this with profound conviction that no work of which we know, especially in Papal lands, deserves more hearty and enthusiastic support, we feel constrained to add a few words, not of cold criticism, but rather of sympathetic suggestion and fraternal caution.