

chance even shedding of blood, it must be by the strong and pure gospel of Christ. Such, then, is the present need and importance of the work that is being done by the missionaries to the French people of Canada.

The necessity of these missions is no less apparent when we examine the intellectual and moral, as well as the material condition of the French people themselves. Of the last I need say no more than this, that their condition is not improving. The ambition which prompts a man to rise, to develop his energies and to move forward, is not consistent with the rule of a despotism that places its iron grasp upon him, body and soul. The tithe system never was more oppressive, grinding as it does annually about \$1,000,000 out of the pockets of an already impoverished people. Intellectually, the condition is deplorable. Reliable statistics show that from sixty to seventy per cent. of the people are illiterate. The schools are sectarian and not of a high class. They are also priest-ridden. The pupils are not trained to independent thought. No one must dispute the decision of the priest upon any question, and the mandate of the Pope is the standard of all knowledge. That such wide-spread illiteracy should prevail is certainly not a hopeful sign for the future of French Canada. For intelligence, freedom, and progress go hand in hand; ignorance is the friend of tyranny. Morally, the aspect is not more encouraging. The work before the Christian missionary is a great one. It is to educate these people, to teach them to think, to judge for themselves, to be men, not children. It is to lead them, by the gospel method of sympathy and kindly charity, and simple yet bold preaching of the truth, to a higher life, a living, purifying faith in Jesus Christ.

Some progress, even though small as to its apparent importance, has been made during the past year. To this we will briefly refer. The largest mission work is carried on by the Presbyterian Church. Through the agency of its missionaries and colporteurs it is endeavoring to scatter broadcast Bibles and religious books. During the past year over 3,300 copies of the Bible and 26,400 tracts were thus distributed. Attention has been largely directed to the education of the young. During the past four years the number of schools under the direction of the Church has increased from 13 to 29, and the number of pupils from 533 to 905. The increase of last year was 4 schools and 101 pupils. Of this total number, 290 are children of Roman Catholic parents; the great majority of the rest are children of converts. In addition to these, a high grade school for advanced pupils is conducted at Pointe aux Trembles. The attendance here has so increased that urgent demand is now made for large additional room. The work of preaching the truth has gone bravely on. There are now 25 mission churches and 78 preaching stations. 238 members were received during the last year. Contributions from all sources amounted to \$33,250, being \$1,000 in advance of the previous year. It is with pleasure that we record the decision of the students of the Montreal Presbyterian College to establish and maintain a mission of their own in the city.

The Methodists report 12 missions, 11 missionaries, and 405 members. 81 were received into membership last year. A small number of schools are being carried on. The French Methodist Institute, an advanced school of a high