

The Mission Crisis.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

I WISH to answer three questions which I am often asked regarding this subject.

1. *What is meant by French Evangelization ?*

The inquiry seems surprising after the work has been carried on at our doors for nearly half a century, and after scores and hundreds of reports and circulars have been published respecting it. Possibly disinclination to learn certain lessons accounts partly for the difficulty of teaching them : and I do not imagine that an atmosphere surcharged with the elements peculiar to a Dominion election contest is the best in which to give instruction on this subject. But as the Editors of the JOURNAL must have something upon it, here it goes.

French evangelization means very much the same as Irish, English, Scottish, Chinese or Hindu evangelization, which sensible Christian people have long regarded with favour. It consists in giving the pure Gospel, and all the blessings which spring from it, to those of our French countrymen who do not possess it. No valid reason can be stated why they should be neglected or passed by in this respect. They are as much entitled to enjoy the riches of salvation as the people of Scotland or of Central India. The work of placing the provision of grace within their reach needs no apology or defence. The manner in which this is done, like all church and secular enterprises is, no doubt, characterized by human frailty : but this much must be added by way of fuller definition. The agents of the Mission are not mischief-makers. They assail no man's natural rights. They keep within the letter and spirit of the terms of the Commission under which the Saviour sent his servants to "preach the Gospel to every creature," and are not to be classed along with narrow bigoted proselytizers, or the propagators of some miserable fetich. Their chief weapon is the word of God, and their work, in point of Catholicity, is closely identified with that of the Bible Society by which several of them have been employed.