

system in England, which was abolished about the time of Charles II. (Can. Com. report.)

The early settlers of Canada were not all of the kind generally found in new countries. Among them were several men of rank and learning, who had made of New France their home, through motives of piety. They devoted themselves to the conversion of the Indians, and occasionally succeeded to induce the red man to bury his hatchet of war for a time at least. Aided by a number of Jesuits, Recollects and other ecclesiastics, male and female, they displayed a wonderful and most commendable missionary zeal in propagating their religious views, and well might have put to shame as well the Protestant churches of Canada as those of Europe. "The grants for the support of education and religion were of the most princely character; the island of Montreal, those extensive domains called the Jesuit Estates, and many of the most valuable portions of the country were freely given. Nor was aid of other kinds wanting, either from the Parent country or from the Colonists, to promote those objects, wisely felt to be of such vast importance in the founding of a new community. In addition to those grants, a provision was created by law, in the shape of a twenty-sixth of the grain raised, payable by the farmer to the priest of his parish, and which still remains, although only recoverable from those of the Roman Catholic faith. As has been remarked there were among the Colonists not a few whose acquirements were of a superior description; indeed a writer remarks that great attention was in general given to the choice of those who went to establish themselves in Canada, and that as respects the rank of the settlers, it was said that Canada had more of the ancient nobility than any other French colony, and perhaps than all of them together. Such was the field which the church of Rome had to occupy in Canada." (Report F. C. M. S.) It may well be said that Rome could never have asked a better field. She had ample provision to establish her system, her priests were considered demigods by the people; they had a clear field before the English conquest and the fullest toleration and encouragement by the British government since. There was nothing to prevent her from doing her work, and if she were what she claims to be, she should have made of this French colony one of the first nations of the earth in commercial, intellectual and moral greatness. Have we not a right to expect this of her when she declares herself to be the only true church of Christ, the light and salt of the earth?

But what did the Protestant Christian church of Europe find out after three centuries of culpable neglect? Was it discovered that the Romish system of religious and secular education had enlightened