

transaction is that the book is actually pro-
duced at the cost of a penny. It pays!

The statistics furnished by the International Sunday-school Convention of the United States and Canada make the number of S. schools in America 87, 661: Teachers, 928, 040: Scholars, 6,963,294. In Great Britain the estimated number of teachers is 550,000, and of scholars 5,000,000, making a total of over 12,000,000 teachers and scholars. If to these are added the continental schools, and the mission schools in foreign lands, and the countless thousands of those who have gone before to the better land, how great is the number of children who have been gathered into the fold of the Good Shepherd, and how vast the influence that had its beginning in a small room, in a back lane, in the town of Gloucester, one hundred years ago!

"A hundred years! Oh who shall try to say
What victories have been gained, what good been done,
How many led to seek the narrow way,
How many harps, how many crowns been won?
What brands plucked from the burning there have been,
What sorrows been relieved what comfort found,
Since in the Sunday-school, they heard the Gospel
sound?"

I have only to add that the Committee of the SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION have decided to issue a Memorial volume of the Centenary, into which will be gathered all that has helped to contribute to the success of this memorable Convention, and that any one who wishes to obtain a copy of it will be supplied on application to the office of the Union, 56 Old Bailey, London.

C.

FRENCH CANADIANS AND THE GOSPEL.

The following communication from a prominent minister of our Church, whose name is withheld from prudential reasons, is worthy of thoughtful perusal, and should stimulate us all to renewed efforts for the propagation of the Gospel throughout the length and breadth of the land, especially among those of our countrymen herein referred to.

In my wanderings during the summer amongst the French Canadian population of the Province of Quebec, I lighted upon a district, which has not yet been visited by Protestant Missionaries or Colporteurs, where I made the acquaintance of several French families. Many of these people I found to be, ecclesiastically, of the Gallican type. Some of them trace their descent from French families of repute, not as their names would indicate without foundation. One of these families, a large one, boasts residence on

their present estate of a century and a half. I was struck with the general character and tone of its several members, and especially with the fact that the venerable patriarch of the family conducts daily family worship in his household; reads prayers, that is from a French Catholic prayer-book. Some of his sons have gone from home for a time in pursuit of business, travelling far and near, picking up knowledge as they went. One especially has been an extensive traveller. To my utter surprise and delight, I ascertained this son had found "the truth," and that the truth had made him free. He now reads his Bible; with the New Testament he is familiar, and he wields Protestant arguments with skill and power. Better than all, he is a man of faith and prayer. I found too, that wherever he goes amongst relatives and neighbours he manfully contends for the Gospel as opposed to the errors of his mother Church. His efforts as a voluntary evangelist have been so far crowned with success that one of his near relations has also become, like himself, a convert to the truth as it is in Jesus. It is worthy of note that this Christian worker is still esteemed and trusted in the wide family circle, as a brother and friend, though some years have passed since he abandoned the errors of his Church, and assumed the Protestant faith. These facts deserve to be recorded in confirmation of the opinion largely held, and scarcely less largely questioned, that the French Canadian mind, in many quarters at least, is in a state of readiness to be approached by the Gospel, and that large results might be expected to follow adequate efforts to make it known to the people. Our efforts have so far been inadequate; certainly they have been unworthy of that promise of advancement which our past successes have betokened. God, in his providence, has thrown upon our church in large measure, the responsibility of caring for the souls of more than a million of our fellow subjects, who are practically destitute of saving truth; the trust is enormous; will the Presbyterian Church in Canada prove herself worthy of it?"

J.

WALDENSIAN PASTORS' FUND.

To the Editor of the PRESBYTERIAN RECORD.

SIR,—You are aware that the Canada General Assembly of 1879 recommended to the favourable consideration of their people the scheme for augmenting the incomes of the Waldensian pastors, originated by the Rev. Dr. Robertson, of Greyfriars, Edinburgh, and adopted by the Continental Committee of the General Presbyterian Council.