

MISSIONARY REGISTER.

JANUARY, 1838.

MISSION TO THE FRENCH CANADIANS.

Mr. Roussy's Letter continued from page 164.

The work beyond the Grand Ligne has also been visited by the Lord. The work at Champlain unfolds itself, and is becoming important. There have been given us from above several subjects of joy and thanksgiving. A family of the name of Brissette, distinguished from the other Canadians by good morals and a life irreproachable in the eyes of men, has been brought to the faith of the Gospel. The father is sixty three years of age and the mother fifty seven; they have had eighteen children, of whom eleven are still alive. They have now only five of their daughters with them, one of whom is married to a Canadian: three are in the States and three in Canada. From the time that I began to preach at Champlain, the father and two of the daughters attended my preaching, and a little after I was invited to go and pay them a visit. I found them all much attached to Roman Catholicism. Seeing these prejudices, and perceiving that several took me for a Roman Catholic Missionary, I spoke to them with the greatest prudence, generally confining myself to the vital truths of the Gospel. The Lord permitted me to gain their confidence. After having often visited this family, the mother, a little surprised at hearing me speak so differently from the other priests, asked me several questions about confession, purgatory, prayers to the saints, and for the dead, and the reasons why the priests forbid the reading of the Bible. To all these I gave direct replies. This last visit which lasted several hours, merely threw them into a state of uneasiness, but brought no conviction to their hearts. Some days after Mrs. Feller being at Champlain went to visit this family. The mother put to her the same questions as to myself; and then the Lord gave such efficacy to the word of his grace, that all were fully convinced of the falsehood of the Roman Catholic church; and then being in a state of anxiety regarding the pardon of their sins, and asking "what they must do to be saved," Mrs. Feller

unfolded to them the good news which God sends through Jesus Christ to repentant sinners. The two older girls, with all simplicity, immediately received it with the liveliest feelings of joy and gratitude, and their souls had peace. The father and mother merely received light enough to see on what side truth was, and the courage to declare themselves in its favour. From that time the whole family became entirely taken up with the word of the Lord; it was the one thing needful for it, seeking to understand it with prayers and supplications. Some weeks later, the father and mother, after passing through deep waters, came forth by faith purified and rejoicing in having found the Saviour of the Truth, and all henceforth become more interesting and intelligent in the things of God. The two girls have been lately baptized. Baptism and the Lord's Supper were greatly blessed to them; they were absorbed in the contemplation of the grace and fulness of the love of God in Christ, and experienced and still experience the fulfilment of that promise contained in Malachi iii. 10. that the windows of heaven were opened to them, and so great a blessing that there was not room to contain it. After stopping twelve days with Mrs. Feller, they returned to Champlain, loaded with blessings and praising God for all his benefits. To their relations they spoke of the goodness of God to their souls with such piety and thanksgiving, that the hearts of their married sister and her husband who both had remained till then strangers to the things of God, were so struck with these things that they resolved to serve God, and seek, I hope with sincerity, the pardon of their sins.

The father and mother also wished to fulfil all righteousness, by receiving the baptism of the Lord Jesus, and commemorating his death and sufferings for them. On this account they came to the Grand Ligne, and on the 13th of February received what they ardently desired. We were filled with great respect for these two aged persons, on seeing them obey so joyfully the command of the Lord, and take heaven and earth to witness their faith in Christ, and that they were begotten anew in him. Baptism and the