

For a portion of the season the Committee assigned, F. Rivard to the "Desert" District within the bounds of the Presbytery of Ottawa. It embraced Aylwin, Bass Lake, the Sixes and Desert, and extended some 90 miles from Ottawa. He reports gratifying success. "In visiting the French (he writes) from house to house, my success consisted, not in selling books, but, in reading a portion of Scripture, and giving an explanation of what was read.

Some said it was the first time they had heard any one reading to them in French. Books are not easily disposed of among them, for the reason that money is scarce, and not more than four in a hundred can read in an intelligent manner.

In a house where a man who was out working, was called in, I had to stay for three hours conversing with him and answering his objections. I had tea in that house, and was asked to stay over-night.

Never before did I speak so much at length and so plainly to a Roman Catholic, on the difference between the Catholic and the Protestant Faith—the teachings of the Bible and those of Rome, &c. In this part of Canada as in many places throughout the Provinces, the people are dissatisfied with the Roman Clergy, but they are too ignorant, superstitious and benighted to wish for better Spiritual leaders.

Preaching and visiting should be accompanied, if not preceded, by the teaching of the young. A school being opened, a teacher visits the children and, in this way, reaches the old people easily. They asked if I would be willing to open one amongst them next summer. The number of children that would attend is over 60,—at the evening school for grown up people who can neither read nor write, over 30."

M. Paradis and T. Brouillette were selected this year for Missionary service in New Brunswick.

M. Paradis writes to us of a very promising young man who had "come out" under his ministrations last year, and who though keenly persecuted had decided to study for the Ministry. In the place to which this youth belonged M. Paradis held this season four discussions, attended by two hundred French. Thereafter he joined his comrade "who had made three converts who renounced Romanism to follow the teachings of the Gospel. Since that, three more were added to our list, and many others are very favourable. We challenged the Priests to public discussion, and they having refused, we called upon one of them, and had a long conversation with him about religion, during which he could answer none of our questions. We then told him that, according to his belief we were lost and trying to lose others, and succeeding very well, and that it was therefore his duty if he thought he was right, to come and confirm his people who are very anxious to hear us converse together on their belief that Christ had sent his disciples to preach His Gospel to all creatures, but he would not. He told us he would warn his people against us, and so he did, but, in the minds of very few, it produces effect.

We are now in the most promising field I ever saw. Many have got tired of buying their salvation. Pray for us,—we have many difficulties and we can do nothing without help."

The "Record" of "the Church of the Lower Provinces speaks thus favourably of the labours of these young men.