

let to a neighbour or purchased by French Roman Catholics. In almost every country congregation in the Presbytery of Quebec the exodus of Presbyterians and influx of French Catholics are quietly but steadily going on. One congregation, known to the writer, has lost eighteen families in about eight years, and as not one Presbyterian took the place of those gone, every removal was a loss to the Church. In another congregation nine families sold out to French buyers and left for other parts. In consequence of these removals the congregations are becoming weaker year by year, and it seems all but certain that some of them must cease to exist. The same seems true of portions of Argenteuil County. A minister of long standing in that county writes: "Almost all our young men leave the country. In several cases of even large families not one has stayed at home. . . . Ten or twelve farms once occupied by Presbyterians are now occupied by French people. . . . The French are always on the lookout for land to buy; and the Rev. Mr. — of — told me, not long ago, that a French agent, with plenty of money at his command, was going among his people and urging them to sell out. . . . The more they (French) increase around us the more ready our people are to move." The hierarchy of the province doubtless aim at the extinction of Protestant communities. Mr. Charles Thibault, of Waterloo, Que., delivered a lecture in the hall of the Jesuit Church, Montreal, several months ago on "The Future of the French-Canadian Race," in which he said: "Since the cession (of Canada to Britain) they (the French) have multiplied as God's people more than any other race under the sun. . . . Not only had they been able to send forth thousands to the States, but here in this country they had ousted other races from their strongholds. In the eastern townships, a very few years ago, the French Canadian population was so small that they could not get roads opened to their farms; now they were in an absolute majority in eight counties of the townships. . . . French Canada would stretch from the St. Lawrence to the Atlantic, and would be bounded only by the Gulf and the Hudson River."

Various reasons may be assigned for the threatened, or actual, decadence of Presbyterian congregations in the Province of Quebec. It may truly be said that it is not due in any sense to lack of work and zeal on the part of ministers and missionaries. Ministers in this province are, we believe, as devoted and self-denying as anywhere in the Dominion; and they labour under greater discouragements and difficulties than are experienced in any other province. It matters not how devoted and diligent some of them may be, they are doomed to see their congregations gradually melt away as snow before an April sun. What then is the cause?

1. Some allege that the length and severity of our winters are responsible for the exodus of many of our people. In many parts it is necessary to have stock housed from November till May. On this ground it is said that successful farming is impossible; that only a bare living, and that with hard toil, can be made by farming. It should be said, however, in behalf of the townships, that the atmosphere is clear and bracing, the climate healthy, the water supply pure and unsur-