

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

A STRAWBERRY social was held on Tuesday evening, 1st inst., in connection with Knox Church, Guelph. The proceeds amounted to \$151.

ON Monday evening, 30th ult., the ladies of Chalmers' Church, Guelph, held a fruit festival. There was a large attendance, and the refreshment tables were well patronized.

ON the evening of Thursday, 19th ult., a strawberry festival was held in the drill shed, Dundas, in aid of the building fund of Knox Church. The amount realized after paying expenses was \$54.

IN the last item but one under the head of "Ministers and Churches" in our last issue, "St. Andrew's Church, Que.," ought to have been St. Andrew's Church, Huntingdon, Que. The amount realized at the two socials is also incorrectly stated. The social at Dr. Shirriff's yielded \$47, and that at Mr. Pringle's \$27.

THE Ladies' Aid Society of the Picton Presbyterian church held a strawberry festival on Monday, 30th ult. Tables were set out in the court-house grounds, furnished with strawberries, ice cream, cakes, tea, etc. There was also a table for the sale of flowers and fancy work. The attendance was large, and a considerable sum was realized in aid of the church funds.

THE dedication of a new frame Presbyterian church took place last Friday forenoon on Wolfe Island. Rev. Principal Grant was the preacher. The new church is situated much nearer the wharf than the old one, and will be of considerable advantage to residents of the city who may spend the Sabbath on the island. In the afternoon a picnic was held in the grounds adjoining the new church, and in the evening there was a concert in the town hall, which was crowded. The singers were members of the choirs of St. Andrew's and Chalmers' Churches, assisted by a few friends. The whole proceedings passed off very successfully.

A LARGE assembly gathered at Carlisle, Presbytery of London, on Tuesday, 24th of June, to witness the laying of the corner stone of the new Presbyterian church which is now being erected there. The services were begun by singing the 100th Psalm and reading the Scriptures, after which the Rev. D. B. Whimster led in prayer. A brief history of the congregation was read by Mr. J. S. Smith, chairman of the building committee. The stone was then lowered and laid with appropriate ceremony by the Rev. John Rennie, pastor of the congregation. Mr. John B. Shipley, one of the elders, next produced a small copper casket which he deposited in the cavity cut out for it in the stone. The casket contained the following articles: Copy of the New Testament, CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, "Presbyterian Record," "Daily Advertiser," "London Free Press," photograph of the pastor, several coins of the Dominion, history of the congregation, with the names of the pastor, elders, trustees, Sabbath school teachers, building committee, contractor, and stonemason. The ceremony being completed at the church, the audience adjourned to the grove of George Shipley, Esq., where a picnic was held, and a very enjoyable time was spent. Addresses were delivered by Rev. J. Rennie, Rev. D. B. Whimster, Rev. E. Dodson, J. S. Smith, and Lio. E. Shipley. The Ailsa Craig brass band was in attendance on the picnic ground and enlivened the occasion with appropriate music. The present wooden church at Carlisle was built by the congregation twenty-three years ago, under the auspices of the late Rev. James Skinner of London township, who was the first Presbyterian minister to preach in the neighbourhood. He began his labours in a school house near Carlisle in 1845, and continued with indefatigable zeal to give supply of preaching, either on week days or Sabbath evenings, until the people were able to support a minister of their own. The first minister called was the Rev. W. Fletcher, who laboured for ten years and then went as a missionary to the North-west. The new church is to be built of brick, with stone basement for the use of the Sabbath school, etc. The size is 30 x 50 feet, and the estimated cost is about \$3,500. It will have a neat spire with porch in front; and will be heated from hot air furnace. When finished it will be an ornament to the place, and we trust it may be a means of blessing to the community for many years to come.—COM.

BOARD OF FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

We give the following extracts from the Annual Report of the Board presented to the Assembly last month. Copies can be obtained on application to Rev. R. H. Warden, 260 St. James street, Montreal, to whom all contributions should be addressed:—

In presenting to the General Assembly their Fourth Annual Report, the Board of French Evangelization desire to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Great King and Head of the Church for the measure of success vouchsafed during the past year.

THE FIELD.

As an erroneous impression exists in the minds of many as to the field for French Evangelistic effort, it may be well to state that about one-third of the entire population of the Dominion of Canada are French-speaking Roman Catholics. Although the greater number of these are found in the Province of Quebec, where there are upward of a million to a total population of 1,190,000, yet they are by no means confined to that Province. In Nova Scotia there are 33,000, in New Brunswick 45,000, and in Ontario 75,000 French-speaking people. If to these are added the large numbers in the Province of Manitoba, as well as those in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, it will be seen that there is scarcely any limit to this department of the Church's work in the Dominion.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

For a long time the Roman Catholic Church in Canada, like that of France from which it sprang, was Gallican rather than Ultramontane, the laity successfully asserting their right to a voice in church matters; but of recent years a great change has taken place. Every student of history knows that the reign of the late Pope was one long record of the triumph of the Jesuit policy, and that nowhere was the baneful effect of this more felt than in Canada. At no time in the past history of the country was the Church of Rome more bitterly opposed to the dissemination of God's Word or more zealous in keeping the people in slavish ignorance and superstition than at present.

THE AIM OF THE BOARD.

Recognizing the truth that the Word of the Living God, applied to the heart and conscience by the Holy Spirit, is the only efficacious means of enlightening men and delivering them from spiritual thralldom, the great aim of the Board is to give this Word to the million and a quarter French-speaking people of the Dominion, under the full conviction that not only the highest interests of these people but also the social, moral and religious liberties of our children and the future destiny of our country imperatively demand this at our hands.

THE MEANS EMPLOYED BY THE BOARD.

In seeking to accomplish this aim the following three agencies are employed by the Board:—

I. Colportage.—In many of the French settlements there is not a single Protestant to be found, and so fanatic and priest-ridden are the people that to attempt opening a Preaching Station or even a Mission School would not only be a dangerous but futile step. The only method of reaching the people in these densely settled and spiritually destitute districts is by means of the Colporteur going from house to house, scattering broadcast the seed of the Kingdom, conversing on Divine things with those willing to listen, reading with them the Word of Life, and, when permitted, leaving in their homes a tract or a copy of the Bible.

II. Mission Schools.—As soon as a group of families in any settlement have been brought to a knowledge of the truth, and have abjured Romanism, one of the first steps is to open a Mission School for the education of the young, and especially for their instruction in the principles of the Bible. The teachers employed by the Board in such schools have been in some instances earnest Christian ladies, but more generally French students for the ministry, many of whom spend their summer vacation in this important department of the work. In addition to the training of the young, these teachers occupy part of their time in the work of Colportage and also in conducting mission services on the Lord's day.

III. Preaching Stations.—The main branch of the Board's work is the planting of Mission Stations and the formation of congregations, wherever, in the Providence of God, there is an opening for such.

PAST RESULTS.

Notwithstanding all the difficulties and discouragements that have had to be encountered in the past, great progress has been made in the work of French Evangelization.

Forty-five years ago there was scarcely a French Canadian Protestant to be found in the whole country; to-day thousands of men and women can be found who have renounced their allegiance to Rome, many of whom have, by God's grace, become humble followers of Jesus. Forty-five years ago there was not a solitary French Protestant congregation in the land; to-day they can be numbered by the score. Forty-five years ago the Bible was virtually an unknown book in almost every French parish in the Province of Quebec; to-day there are few parishes in which the Bible cannot be found, a few parishes which have not, to a greater or less extent, felt the influence of Bible truth. A vast mistake is made when the results of French Evangelistic work are calculated by the number of congregations, or stations, or schools that have been established, or even by the number of persons that have publicly abjured Romanism. There is abundant evidence that thousands within the Church of Rome are galling under the iron yoke and are longing to be free—abundance of evidence that many of the laity, and not a few of the priests, are sick at heart, sighing for a peace which the confessional is unable to impart. Many of our French Canadians are beginning to ask why they cannot prosper as the Protestants do. They are beginning to enquire why the poorest Protestant child gets the rudiments of a good education while their own children grow up in ignorance. In these, and in various other ways, dissatisfaction

with the Church and the system of Rome is manifesting itself.

There is an opinion somewhat prevalent in the Protestant community of the country, that the reformation of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada must take place from within the Church itself. No intelligent observer can doubt that there are at the present time signs of upheaval in the Church; still less can any one at all acquainted with the history of French Canadian Evangelistic work, fail to trace the present unrest and growing dissatisfaction within the Church to the efforts put forth *without* during the past forty years to give the people the Gospel, and the Board of French Evangelization have confidence that the efforts they are now putting forth are, by God's blessing, helping to foster and hasten the great efforts from within Romanism itself which a long-suffering and much-injured people are yet to make. When that time comes many will be surprised to find the large numbers within the church who will hail it with delight. A much wider and deeper work is now in progress than on the surface is visible. The sowing season may to some seem long, but the reaping time will come, and rich and golden will the harvest be.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE WORK.

The work accomplished during the past year, as well as that at present being carried on by the Board, will be found in the detailed reports of the several fields, already published. It may not be amiss to state that some of our sister Protestant churches have reaped, to some extent, the fruit of the labours of our missionaries, not a few of our converts from Rome having been gathered into their churches.

Many of our converts, because of persecution for conscience' sake, or from inability to obtain employment, have been compelled to move elsewhere. Of the many families that have had to leave Montreal, two have taken up land in the county of Compton, Que. Family worship is regularly observed in their new homes. In the evening some of their neighbours, French Canadian Catholics, come in to hear the Bible read, and, on Sabbaths, quite a number gather regularly in the house of one of these converts to listen to the reading of the Gospel and to unite in the singing of hymns. It is true of many of our French Canadian converts to-day, as of the early Christians when scattered because of persecution, that they go everywhere preaching the word of life. From ministers of the Church in various parts of the Dominion the Board have intelligence from time to time to the effect that certain French Canadian converts from some of our missions have come to their district, acquired a little English and identified themselves with their congregations, and not unfrequently the testimony is borne that they are adorning the doctrine of God their Saviour by a consistent walk.

Our work too has gone beyond our borders, and is blessing our neighbours in the United States. Not to speak of the large congregation under the Board in Ste. Anne, Illinois, and the French Canadian Protestants in the Western States, the number of our converts in New Hampshire and Massachusetts is very large. It is interesting to know that in the city of Lowell there is a French Protestant Church, ministered to by the Rev. T. G. Cote, a former student of the Montreal Presbyterian College, which commands the warm sympathy and support of the Protestants of that city.

God has greatly honoured our Church beyond all the other Protestant Churches in Canada in this work of French Evangelization. There are few names more honoured in the Presbyterian branch of the Church of Christ than that of John Calvin—few men to whom we Presbyterians under God owe more. About the very time he was a fugitive from his native land and in Switzerland found an asylum, another native of Northern France, Jacques Cartier sailed into the great gulf of our Canadian water highway and gave its name to our St. Lawrence River. French Canadians are the descendants of the men of the North of France. Is it not significant that after the lapse of three hundred years the spiritual descendants of John Calvin should, in the wonderful providence of God, come with the message of mercy to the descendants of Calvin's brethren and friends of Northern France?

JOINT FRENCH AND ENGLISH WORK.

One feature of the work of the Board deserves special prominence, viz., that which bears upon the supply of Gospel ordinances to English-speaking Presbyterians in the Province of Quebec. Many districts of that Province were originally settled by Presbyterians from Scotland and the North of Ireland. Some of these were entirely neglected by the Church of their fathers, and as a consequence the people became lukewarm and indifferent, intermarried with French Catholics, had their children baptized and brought up in connexion with the Church of Rome, and to-day the descendants of these settlers are not only unable to speak the language but are utterly ignorant of the faith of their ancestors. There are other districts, in the Province where a few years ago there was a regularly organized Presbyterian Church with a settled pastor where to-day there is none, owing to the decrease in the number of English-speaking people. It is a well-known fact that, apart from the city of Montreal and one or two other points, the English population of the Province is yearly diminishing, and at the present time there is quite a number of settlements with a sparse English-speaking Protestant population, where, if gospel ordinances are to be maintained at all, it must be by missionaries able to minister to the wants of the English-speaking section, and at the same time to make inroads on the French community. In such districts it is to the interest of the English-speaking Protestants to have a missionary who can preach in both languages, so as to ensure their having ordinances maintained among them at all, while at the same time it is in the interests of French Evangelization to have the co-operation and moral support of the English-speaking community in making inroads on the masses of French Romanists by whom they are surrounded—without which co-operation and support it would in many instances be hazardous to undertake mission work at all. In some of these districts the number of English-speaking Protestants is so rapidly diminishing, owing to emigration and other causes, that if a foothold is to be maintained, active, energetic steps