

FIFTY-NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Grande-Ligne Mission.

We all know how difficult it is to write current history, and how imperfect and incomplete it will necessarily be. The year just coming to a close has been one of unusual interest, full to the brim of varied experiences, pleasurable, hopeful, painful or trying, and of hard work, over all the field. This ought to be enough of a report for any Missionary Society to present to its supporters. But those interested in its progress wish or claim results from honest work—devout souls, eager for the advancement of God's Kingdom wish to have answers to their earnest prayers; those who put more or less money in this enterprise want to see some interesting account of the working capital. We grant that they have a certain right to expect some visible, tangible results so as to be satisfied as to the usefulness of their investment. Results can sometimes be seen, and to some extent measured, especially in large enterprises of a material or commercial kind, and even in the sphere of instruction and education; but how difficult and uncertain when we tread on moral ground and spiritual experiences! Of the many striking parables and wonderful sayings of our Lord, none is more pregnant and ever revealing than the homely comparison of the leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. Christ has said that this leaven is like unto the power of the Kingdom of God. Those who have diverted this passage from its evident sense have only succeeded in isolating a sour substance, and souring themselves. Put it in the meal, it is a sweetening and raising power.

This comparison comes home to us in a sweet and forcible manner. A sainted woman was sent to us to put this leaven in the mind and heart of a few Canadians, the fermentation has been going on ever since, it is now pervading a large portion of the