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Toronto, April 18, 1895.

French Evangelization.

THE statement and appeal issued by the Executive of the Committee on French Evangelization has the true ring. The opening note of thankfulness and hopefulness is inspiring and is sustained by facts of a most encouraging character. It is most gratifying to read of successes in this needy field, where so much remains to be done and where every advance multiplies itself indefinitely. To uphold the Committee in its coveted work, to support its laudable efforts would, indeed, be a privilege highly to be considered. The nature of that work can be gathered from this description of it given by the zealous Principal of the Montreal College, Rev. Dr. MacVicar: "The mission day schools are a necessity in many places for our scattered French Protestants as well as a most effective means of evangelization. There is no attempt to conceal their missionary character. The reading of the Scriptures and the inculcation of the principles of the Gospel are an important part of the daily work, and yet one-half and more of the pupils attending them come from Roman Catholic homes. This is good evidence of their appreciation by the people and of a desire for something better than the public or parish school provides and all the more so because of the very unsuitable and inferior character of our buildings and equipment. In some places the numbers would be larger if the people were free. Not far from Quebec a school was opened last fall in the house of our Colporteur. The attendance of Roman Catholics very soon ran up to twenty-five. The private opposition of the priest availing nothing he declared from the altar that the sacraments of the Church would be withheld from all parents who sent their children to the heretic's school. This had its effect. 'What does he want?' asked a father of a family; 'he will not provide proper education for our children and will not permit us to send them where they can get it. Must our children be brought up in ignorance like the rest of us? Many of them are now running the streets and go to no school.' 'Some of those who have accepted the Gospel from me have asked me for any sake to not make it know so great is their fear of the priest in this place' says the Colporteur."

The statement by the Executive, as has been remarked, will be welcomed because of the good news it contains and because of the buoyancy of its spirit. In the work planned out for the summer the necessities of the wide, difficult field have been well thought over, and these can only be met by a liberal response by the contributing congregations. The response will be

liberal. The people will not fail in this respect, and we echo the hope of the Convener in leaving the matter confidently in the hands of the congregations.

"The Lord Reigneth."

Some years ago, after a violent storm in the Atlantic, in which our good vessel was badly pitched about, we remarked one young woman appear on deck, pale and weak, having been very ill. We asked her if she had been afraid. She replied that she had not been, for while the seas broke over the vessel, she remembered the text: "The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters," and was comforted. "The Lord reigneth!" Let us not forget this. At present a dark cloud is in the horizon of our country—the Manitoba School Question. It threatens to disturb the harmony that has reigned among us, to set one portion of the people against another, and create a divided community. It is probable an appeal will be made to the people of the land in the matter. It behoves us to be calm, and trustful that when the time comes for us to give our vote upon this vital issue, we may be led to a right decision. It is not a time for words, but for faith, and prayer. Let our duty be first to God, and then to our country. Let us not fear the results. "The Lord reigneth."

W.F.M.S.—Annual Meeting.

This week we cordially welcome to the City of Toronto the large number of women who will be in attendance at the nineteenth Annual Meeting of the W.F.M.S. There is no organization, in this age of organizations, that has more fully justified its existence than this. Its phenomenal growth is not to be estimated in dollars and cents. By the distribution of literature, by quiet unobtrusive work and especially by united prayer both family and church have been inoculated with such a spirit of unselfishness as is felt in the destitute fields of the home land as well as in the regions beyond, where Christ's name has never been heard. In every Christian land, in all sections of the Christian Church is this powerful organization at work, and must be reckoned one of the principal factors in the great onward movement towards the world's evangelization. In our own Church this society was organized in 1877, nineteen years ago. In that year with 18 Auxiliaries, and 3 Mission Bands, they contributed \$1,005.39; ten years later, in 1887, they had 256 Auxiliaries, 76 Mission Bands, 20 Presbyterian Societies, and contributed \$18,581.00. We find that five years later, in 1894, there were 369 Auxiliaries, 228 Mission Bands, 25 Presbyterian Societies and that they contributed \$41,822.31. Such startling developments cannot be looked for in years to come simply because the number of Presbyteries and congregations is limited; yet there is much ground to conquer and we trust past successes will only stimulate to greater energy and that eventually in every congregation there will be a society formed in which all women who can possibly do so will take an active interest. That there should be occasional misunderstandings and that there should be a desire upon the part of persons specially interested in other schemes of the Church, to share in the results of the work of these women is not to be wondered at. But concentration is the secret of success, and that success elicits greater energy upon the part of others