

Correspondence.

The Great Gathering of French Protestants at Monte-Bello, Que.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW:

SIR—I would, with very much pleasure, have given a fuller account of the most interesting and pleasing event above-mentioned, but I must consider what these letters express—"s-p-a-c-e."

The passages which follow, which are marked as quotations, are translated from *L'Annonce* of June 29.

The gathering took place on the 20th of June, "under the shadow of the great trees of the Papineau Manor." The day was charming. The arrangements were excellent. Every one present was anxious to make others happy. Result, of course, a great success."

"By 7.30 a.m., Dalhousie Station (Montreal) was filled with those beings whom people, in days past, held in profound contempt, and called 'Saisis,' but whom they are now obliged to respect, on account of their number, their intellectual culture, their social position, their moral culture and their Christian conduct." "How the times are changed!" as a French poet says.

More than 400 persons went to Monte-Bello from Montreal and neighborhood. At 1 p.m. they were kindly received by M. Papineau and a crowd of friends who had arrived before them from Ottawa and surrounding parts. The committee was entertained by M. and Mlle. Papineau at a sumptuous dinner in the Manor House. The excursionists, in the meantime, dispersed themselves through the woods, and picniced under the great pines of the St. Louis Square.

About 2.30 p.m. the meeting was opened. M. Papineau was enthusiastically appointed chairman. The large verandah of the Manor House served as a platform. A fine choir was led by M. Marceau. The first part of the exercises was the hymn, "Chants et triomphe, Eglise de Jesus" (Sing and Triumph, Church of Jesus). "One's heart was thrilled by hearing those notes of triumph which the mountains and the green woods echoed again and again."

It is supposed that more than a thousand were assembled on the occasion. The different churches—Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalians, and Presbyterian—were largely represented by their pastors and missionaries.

Rev. M. De Gruchy led in prayer. M. Papineau then addressed the meeting. He spoke first in French, then said a few words in English, as a mark of respect to those friends present whose written tongue it was.

Rev. M. Amaron, of *L'Annonce*, came next. After a word or two of introduction, he read an address from the French Protestants of Canada to the Governor-General. He said that His Excellency and Lady Aberdeen would have been with them personally, had other engagements not come in the way. His Excellency would be pleased to receive their address. M. Amaron moved that the address be adopted, and sent to Lord Aberdeen by a deputation. M. J. Herdt, in very kindly terms, seconded the motion, which, on its being put to the meeting, was enthusiastically adopted.

Then followed Rev. M. M. Lariviere, Massicotte, Lafleur, and Dr. Chiniquy. The speaking lasted more than two hours, yet the hearers showed no signs of weariness.

"Mlle. Duhamel, niece of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Ottawa, a distinguished singer who lately embraced the Reformed faith (Presbyterian), charmed the vast audience by a song, the execution of which was very difficult. We owe her our warmest thanks for having so kindly consented to sing in the open air, without accompaniment. The audience was not satisfied till Mlle. Duhamel let it hear once more her well-trained voice."

M. Amaron moved a warm vote of thanks to M. and Mlle. Papineau for their very kind reception of the French Protestants of Canada. Prof. Cousinot seconded it. From the audience, the resolution received a volley of cheers. Rev. M. Lafleur closed the meeting with the blessing.

The visitors then went to the museum, the mausoleum, the old Manor House, the large and magnificent gardens, and the enchanting banks of the Ottawa. There was but little time left for athletic sports, but what there was, was well employed.

"At 8 p.m., the visitors from Montreal, and at 8.30, those from Ottawa took their respective trains. At midnight, without any accident, a little fatigued, but with a joyous and thankful heart, each one arrived at his home.

"Those connected with the railway have said that they have never had an excursion of more than 400 persons, so well dressed, and so well-behaved, no drunkenness, no bad language, perfect kindness and courtesy. This says much for the great principles which we profess and follow.

"In a word, the festival of Thursday, June 20th, is the finest muster of the French Protestant forces which we have ever had in this country. Let us all keep a precious remembrance of it, and let us thank God for all the blessings which He has bestowed on us."

Woodbridge, Ont. T. FENWICK.

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Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, and signed with their actual signatures.

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By order, E. F. E. ROY, Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 26th June, 1896.

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