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French Methodist Institute, Westmount, Montreal.

THE session of 1897-8 opened on the 28th September with a large number of students, the largest at any time since its opening. From the beginning the work has been most encouraging. The character of the students, the qualifications of the staff, and the interest manifested by all concerned have done much to lighten the burden of care and anxiety and to make the work pleasant and agreeable. There are at the present time (February 24th) seventy-five pupils in attendance, while over ninety have at one time or another been enrolled. Over twenty of the present number are Roman Catholics whose minds and hearts are being influenced and enlightened by the truths of the Gospel. The results of the examination held at Christmas were most encouraging, some taking a very high average, while many who had never passed a written examination before, gave evidence of having secured a good grasp of the subject in hand.

The religious work is receiving a large share of attention, and is not without beneficial effect. Our weekly prayer-meetings have thus far been marked by a deep devotional spirit, and an earnest enquiry after the way of life; indeed a deep work of grace has been going on in the hearts of the pupils, specially among the boys. This has manifested itself in their own prayer-meetings, held on Friday night, and in the fact that even after the retiring bell had rung, some anxious for salvation, and others burdened with desire for the conversion of their school-mates, have met for protracted and earnest prayer. We are hoping that some of these boys will eventually pass from us into the Wesleyan Theological College, and thence, equipped for the work of evangelization, will go forth to proclaim to their fellow-men the glorious Gospel of Christ. The girls also give evidence that the grace of God is fashioning them for active and successful work in the service of the Master.

We believe most heartily in the power of the Gospel of Christ to convert and to keep those who are willing to accept it, but we believe that the most effectual

and lasting work is that which is done in the minds and hearts of the young. Christian education, under the influence of Christian teachers, and surrounded with the safeguards and uplifting atmosphere of a Christian home, will do what nothing else can do to evangelize and lift up the French-Canadian race. This is the aim and object before us; this is our work. Brethren, pray that the seed we are sowing may indeed bring forth a glorious harvest.

J. PINEL, Principal.

French Evangelization.

It is an undisputed fact that the Province of Quebec is much behind the Province of Ontario in many respects.

This we believe is due not so much to the people themselves as to the system by which the majority are bound. It is so in all countries where Rome rules; there is lack of growth and development, lack of intellectual activity and progress, as compared with other countries where Protestantism rules. Hence the importance of the work, viewed even from a commercial or national standpoint.

That progress is being made there is not a doubt. True, immense difficulties are still in the way, multitudes are still bitterly prejudiced against what we believe to be the truth, and the Church, *semper eadem*, is still vigilant and active in her efforts to prevent the people from receiving the light of God's Word. But speaking generally, there never was a



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time when French evangelization could be prosecuted more easily and more successfully than now. The French-Canadian people are breaking the chains that bind them; they are thinking, reading and expressing themselves as never before. In politics, in education, in religion, they are claiming the right of private judgment, and refusing to continue longer under the yoke of the oppressor. A colporteur said to the writer but a few days since, "Some fifteen years ago when I visited a certain community, I did so almost at the risk of my life, and had to beg for permission to lodge with them, so bitterly were they opposed to me and my work. but now, as soon as they know I am coming, they gather to meet me and listen to the Word of God."