

PTE. AUX TREMBLES SCHOOLS.

Question.—How many French people are there in Canada?

Answer.—About one million and a quarter, or one-fourth of the population of the Dominion.

Q. What is their religion?

A. They are nearly all Roman Catholics.

Q. Where do most of them live?

A. In the Province of Quebec.

Q. What was the first society organized to give them the Gospel?

A. The French-Canadian Missionary Society, supported by different Protestant denominations, organized 8 April, 1830.

Q. Were there any Protestants among the French in Canada previous to that time?

A. So far as known there was scarcely one.

Q. Where did the Society get its first French-speaking missionaries?

A. From Switzerland, hence French Protestants are still called "Suisse" by the Roman Catholics.

Q. Who were the first missionaries?

A. Mr. and Mrs. Amaron came out in June, 1840, and began work at Belle Rivière, P.Q., and Rev. J. E. Tanner and wife came out in August, 1841, and began work in Ste. Thérèse.

Q. What is now being done to give the Gospel to French-Canadians?

A. The Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Episcopal, churches, are each carrying on work among them.

Q. Does the original society still exist?

A. No. In 1880, as the different churches were doing French work, the old French-Canadian Missionary Society, in which they were all working together, closed its operations.

Q. What work are these churches doing?

A. The Episcopalians (Sabrevois Mission) have 5 mission fields and 13 workers; the Methodists, 7 mission fields and 13 workers; the Baptists (Grande Ligne Mission) 15 fields and 31 workers, and the Presbyterians, 23 mission fields and 73 workers.

Q. In what ways does the Presbyterian Church carry on French work?

A. By missionaries, by colporteurs, and by mission schools.

Q. How many mission schools are there?

A. Twenty day schools and three night schools, besides the Central Mission schools at Pointe aux Trembles.

Q. Where is Pointe aux Trembles?

A. On the north side of the St. Lawrence river, nine miles east of Montreal.

Q. What schools are there?

A. A boys' school and a girls' school.

Q. What was the origin of the boys' school?

A. When the Amarons began work in Belle Rivière in 1840, Mrs. Amaron opened a school for boys, which aimed at giving them a good education on Scriptural principles. In 1846 it was moved to Pointe aux Trembles and has ever since been known as the Pointe aux Trembles school for boys.

Q. What was the origin of the girls' school?

A. When Rev. J. E. Tanner and wife came from Switzerland in August, 1841, and began work at Ste. Thérèse, P.Q., Mrs. Tanner began a school for girls, which was soon after transferred to Montreal; and in May, 1843, it was also removed to Pointe aux Trembles and has ever since been known as the Pointe aux Trembles school for girls.

Q. Who first had charge of these schools at Pointe aux Trembles?

A. Rev. J. E. Tanner was the first principal of the schools, and Mrs. Tanner, first directress of the girls' school.

Q. When did these schools become the property of our Church?

A. In 1880, when the French-Canadian Missionary Society withdrew from its work, it sold its buildings at Pointe aux Trembles to the Presbyterians.

Q. Who is now Principal of these schools?

A. Rev. J. L. Bourgeois, with Miss Haddow as directress of the girls' school.

Q. How long has Mr. Bourgeois been teaching there?

A. Twenty-five years.

Q. What is the character of these schools?

A. They are pleasant Christian homes, the pupils all living in the buildings and talking their share in the home work.

Q. How many pupils attend them?