

Joseph and Mary had to go to a stable. But history tells us that those only could be taxed who were possessed of property, and the inn, or hotel, was so full they had to prepare them lodging in an outhouse. It is not at all likely that the Virgin Mary understood fully who this wonderful baby of hers was, and when she saw the homage paid to him, we are told, "She pondered these things in her heart." The cruel king that then reigned over Palestine was so jealous of the child, called by the wise men "King of the Jews," that he would have killed Him if he had found Him, but God was watching over the Holy Infant. He sent an angel to warn Joseph, and one night he stole away with the babe and mother, and went down into Egypt and staid there till the king was dead; after which he brought them to Nazareth, and so Jesus was called a Nazarene.

When Mary took him to the temple to be circumcised, she, no doubt, wondered what old Simeon meant when he told her, "A sword should pierce through her own heart." But when her loved Son hung on the cross and she saw the cruel soldiers pierce His dear side with a spear, she might have remembered the old Prophet's words.

(To be Continued.)

C. ROSS

AUXILIARY SUBJECT OF PRAYER FOR MARCH

French Canadian Missions; Papal Countries.

We must not become so interested in foreign missionary work that we forget that which lies at our very door, and sad it is to think that there are people living so near us to whom it is necessary to send missionaries. In the Province of Quebec there are 1,250,000 French Canadians who are being taught the Roman Catholic Religion. True, they are not heathen, as we commonly use the word, but, indeed, worship God; yet so much that is false has crept in that their worship is not according to the teaching of the Bible. They acknowledge Jesus Christ, but worship the Virgin Mary as the mediator between themselves and the Father, and, besides, include a long list of saints in their prayers and devotions. With them obedience to the church is the first law, and the priest stands in the place of God, having power to forgive sin. They are under the supreme control of the priest, and believe that he can do no wrong. We do not need to go to foreign lands for idol worship, as these poor deluded people think the bones of saints have power to cure disease and sickness. Every year thousands of pilgrims visit the shrine of St. Anne, believing that a part of her bones, which are to be found there, can cure them of their disease.

We believe that the free use of God's word, His written message to His people, is the right of every human creature; but the priests do not allow their people to read the Bible, only as they interpret it for them. So we have established missions to teach them the true way; that "There is one mediator between God

and men, the man Christ Jesus," and that they may know that "the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins," and He only.

In the fall of 1888 the French Methodist Institute, at Montreal, was opened, and its work has ever been accompanied with success. This term has opened hopefully with 51 pupils—23 girls and 28 boys. The attendance will increase later on. Last year there were 89 pupils, a large number being Roman Catholics. The work last year was most encouraging, and the last Sunday of the term more than half the pupils partook of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and expressed a determination to follow Christ. Besides the Institute, there are four Mission Schools, one in the east end of Montreal, with an attendance of 66, with Miss Mathieu as teacher, and one in the west end, with an attendance of 133, Miss Jackson being the teacher. In the country there are two small schools, one of which is being taught by Miss Petit, a former student at the Institute. So we see the good seed is being scattered, and who can tell what the harvest will be? The Institute is under the joint management of the W. M. S. and the General Board and Miss Mathieu and Mrs. Ross are our missionaries there. Besides the teaching and work done in the school—all our missionaries do a great deal of visiting and work among the poor of the city. They all ask our prayers that the seed thus scattered may bring forth much fruit.

We are also to pray for the spread of the Gospel in all papal countries—Mexico, South America, Italy, Spain and France. The latter country is, perhaps, the readiest to receive the true worship of God and to welcome His ambassadors. Let us pray that they may be sent.

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A. C. W.

ANNUAL REPORT STUDY.

Any member may lead in this exercise, and should make herself familiar with it before the meeting. Each member should have in her hand a copy of the Annual Report 1898-1899. Leader asks questions, telling where answers are to be found. After all have found answer, Leader calls on one to read it.

1. Read laws 6, 7 and 9 on page 176.
2. What is an Auxiliary? Page 169, art vii.
3. What is meant by "Branch?" Page 168, art. vi., sec. 1
4. Of what must the officers of each Branch consist? Page 168, art. vi., sec. 2.
5. What is meant by "Branch Annual Meeting?" Page 31.
6. How many Branches are there and name them? Page 31.
7. How many Auxiliaries? Page 31.
8. How many Mission Circles and Bands? Page 31.
9. What amount was raised last year by Circles and Bands? Page 31.
10. What was the total amount raised by Auxiliaries, Circles and Bands? Page 31.