

## REPORT OF THE FRENCH WORK.

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In reviewing the work done by the Woman's Missionary Society among the French during the year, we have cause for gratitude to our Divine Master, who has blessed us not only with some degree of success, but even more in our own hearts and lives, for "he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

Our chief duty has been to establish a mission school for French girls. At the beginning of the year this was only a project, and for some weeks after the annual meeting the preparations for it were delayed by the prevalence of small-pox in the city. However, in October last the school was opened and dedicated by a special meeting for prayer.

At the end of the school year, in April, we had as many boarders as the house would hold, for it was only a tenement of eight rooms, and the pupils were obliged to attend school in the basement of the French Methodist Church close by. We had reason to be satisfied that there was great improvement in the mental and spiritual standing of the pupils, and closed the school hoping that the fruit of the year's training and prayer may be found after many days.

It seemed, however, highly desirable that a larger house should be procured, with a piece of ground, if possible; and during the spring a diligent search and inquiry were made for a suitable building. On account, however, of the extremely high rents asked, no desirable place had been decided upon, when in June we were induced to consider the mission premises at Acton, fifty-five miles from Montreal. This house, though occupied in part by the missionary, is also the preaching place of the village, having a large room for the purpose, which we shall use as a school-room. It seemed, therefore, just what we had wished and prayed for, having, besides ample accommodation within, a good piece of ground attached. The house is well built of brick.

Having secured the consent of the Missionary Committee to our use of the premises, and having the approval of our own Central Board, we are proceeding to open the Mission School for French girls at Acton, on Oct. 1st prox.

After a good deal of inquiry and correspondence, a teacher has been decided upon in the person of Mlle. Lucile Vessot, of whom we have very favorable recommendations.

The home life of the pupils will be cared for by Mme. de Gruchy, the wife of the resident minister. She has the advantage of having had some years' training in a similar institution of the Baptists. The teacher also will reside in the house.

We have already decided favorably on eighteen applications from pupils, and others are known to be coming, so that we do not doubt the school will be full. Nearly all the applicants have been Romanists.