

## FRENCH EVANGELIZATION NOTES.

**A Colporteur's** Louis Bonnenfant, a French Experience. colporteur employed in the city of Montreal, speaking of cottage prayer meetings which he holds in private houses, says, "The people like these meetings in their houses very much. It stimulates, enlightens, and strengthens. Sometimes I hold meetings in Roman Catholic families where I am well received."

In colporting from house to house I found many Roman Catholics sick. I speak with them and, if they are willing, I read to them some of the admirable passages of Scripture, and I pray with them when I find the opportunity. Ordinarily they find my prayers beautiful, but if they speak of it to their priest at his next visit, he tells them not to let me come again, because I am a Chiniquist, &c. And generally when I return there I am received very coldly, but in some cases it is beginning to open their eyes to see for themselves in the Scripture, and for the others I think the seed sown in their hearts will come up, it cannot return without effect.

As is usual this month (February) there is much misery among the poor, wanting food and fuel, &c. I meet a great many of them. When they are Roman Catholics who are too timid to ask for help, I report them to their nearest society (St. Vincent de Paul) but I do not go without speaking to them and offering to lend them a New Testament. When they are Protestants I give them a letter to go to the Refuge, and get help."

**Novel** Some preachers adopt novel and **Gospeling.** sensational methods to win attention for themselves and their message. One of the missionaries employed by our French Board, of whom members of Assembly have sometimes heard, Mr. Louis Charbonnel, has been led, all unwillingly, into a method that can certainly claim to be unique, but which he thinks may help to win a hearing for the message. Others may not care to try it. Writing from Sherbrooke he says of February, "This has been a month of hard labor. On the 9th of February I left the house of Mr. Sawyers, ex M.P.P., at 8 o'clock in the morning for La Patrie. About 9 o'clock the storm began. Soon the roads were full, but thanks to my strong horse I went along till I struck the township of Ditton. Then misery began and very soon my horse was wading through the snow. I had to stop and take him out of the sleigh. Then he dragged me as a log on the snow by the bits. I believe he knew that I was in great distress and losing consciousness. He reached a house and I got up and opened the door, but was not able to speak for ten minutes only by signs. The neighbors came in. They went after my things that were in the road. They were mostly all Roman Catholics, but some

of them knew me. They expressed great sympathy and did for me all they could. I have reason to believe that it is going to be the means of circulating God's word among them."

**Mr Vernier.** Writes from Angers, "At Valençay we have splendid cottage meetings. Some 14 Roman Catholics come every night. One man drove 27 miles to be present at meeting. At Natin the house of our dear friend Gracelp is too small for the number of Roman Catholics that come to hear the Gospel. At Perkins both Protestants and Roman Catholics make wonderful progress. If I keep as strong and healthy as now, with God's help we shall have a glorious summer."

**From Ottawa** Rev. E. F. Seylaz writes,—**Our and Hull.** people continue to manifest more and more interest in the services of the Church. I have met a number of Roman Catholics to whom I have been enabled to tell of the "glad tidings." Many are anxious to know more of the Gospel, but like Nicodemus are still too timid to come out openly and hear us. We can but sow and water the seed, God will give it growth in his own time.

**Rev. R. P.** Who labors in Montreal East, writes **Duclos.** for January,—“The new converted family mentioned in my last report (for January) proves to be not only true but is exerting a most salutary influence on its neighbors and most of the congregation. Four other families are feeling its influence. I have had the pleasure to see joining our congregation during the past two months, four families, three of whom are converts from Rome.

The same pastor writing for February, says, "I have much pleasure in reporting progress. Three mothers, Roman Catholics, who had attended the service the past two months have expressed a desire to join the Church. A good workingman, father of three children, is not only converted to Christianity, but is doing good work in his family and neighborhood. Another who used to be a miserable drunkard seems to be under conviction of sin. A good work is being done among the young, 22 young people have professed a desire to lead a Christian life."

Pastor Duclos has formed a society of young people in his congregation, not unlike a Christian Endeavor Society, which has grown in number from 11 to 51, and promises to be a power for good.

"At the Sorbonne, the old University of Paris, John Calvin, then a youth, spoke boldly through a paper prepared for the Principal, in advocacy of a pure Gospel. As a consequence, he was forced to leave Paris hurriedly and in disguise. This was in 1533. In 1893 a Protestant is at the head of the Sorbonne, and Protestantism is freely taught therein. The Protestant cause is advancing in France."