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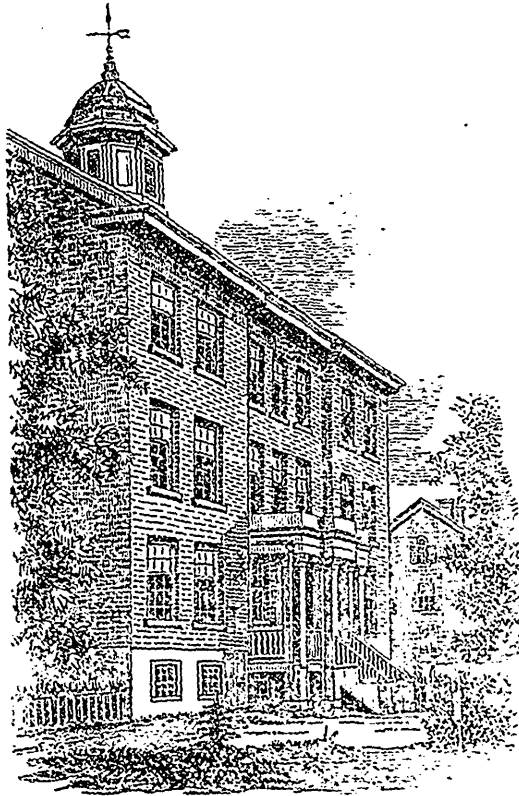
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THE JOURNAL  
OF THE  
**French Canadian Missionary Society.**

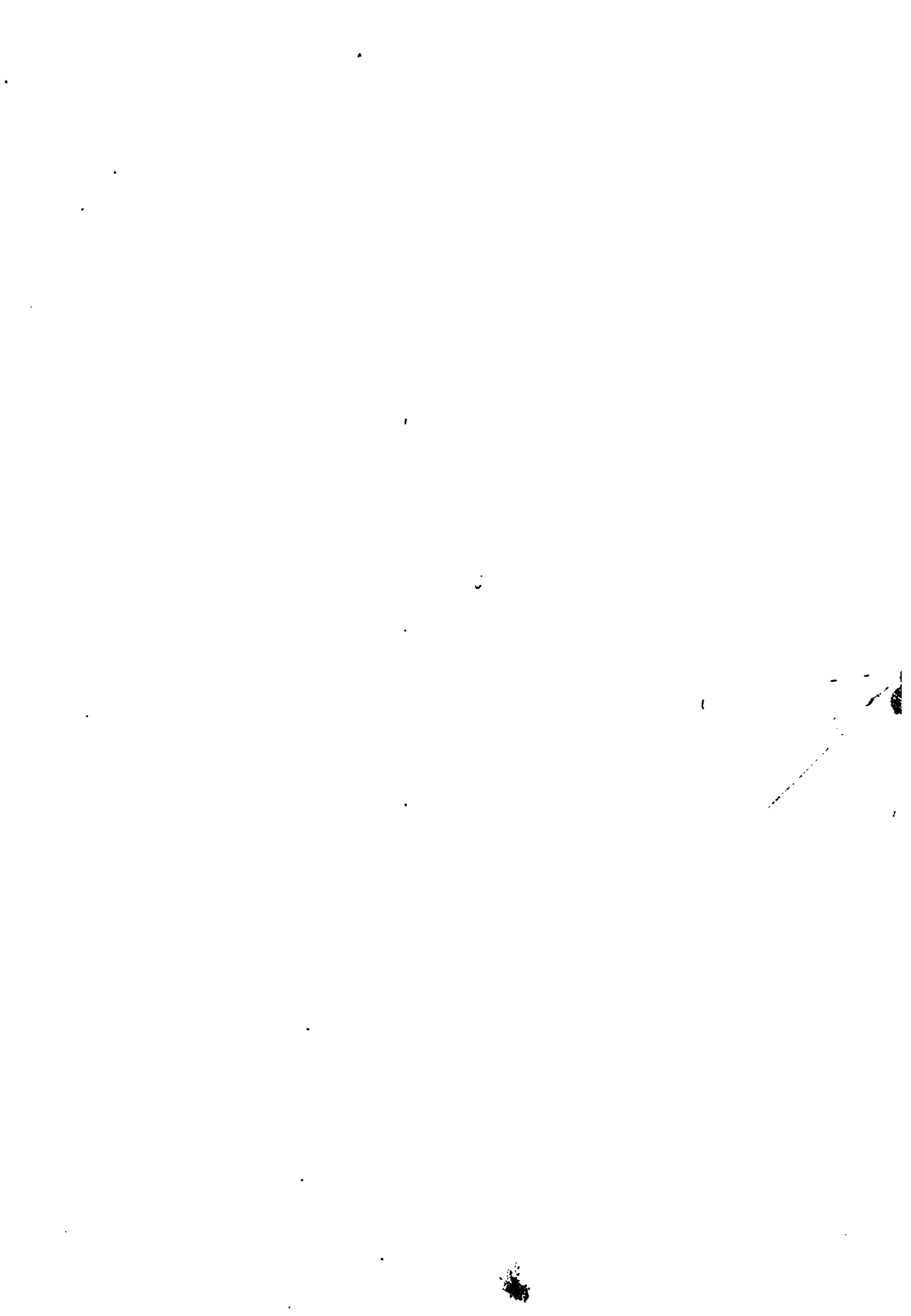
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POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES.

Montreal:  
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1872.



# THE JOURNAL

OF THE

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

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JULY, 1872.

No. 1.

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The Committee of the French Canadian Missionary Society, has long felt the want of some medium of communication, by which the supporters of the Mission and others might receive more frequent information with regard to the operations of the Society.

The Committee has therefore decided to issue a periodical to be called "THE JOURNAL OF THE FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY," in which will appear extracts from the Missionaries' Journals, and other reports of the work, together with such intelligence as will tend to make the reader better acquainted with this French speaking Province of the British Empire, and with the nature and extent of the work to be accomplished in the interests of evangelical religion.

Attention is drawn to the following intimation.

It is intended that annual subscribers of \$4 and upwards shall receive "THE JOURNAL" free. That subscribers of \$1 and below \$4, shall receive free the February number containing the Annual Report, and that all subscribers shall receive free the number in which their donations may be acknowledged.

The committee is desirous that during the present year, as wide a circulation of the "THE JOURNAL" as possible should be made, and will furnish copies gratuitously to persons who would interest themselves in its distribution, especially in localities where the agent of the Society does not visit.

UNITED CHURCH  
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## BRITISH AGENCY.

The Committee, in seeking aid beyond the Dominion would assure its friends, that it is not unmindful of the many claims that are made upon the Christian public of the Imperial Islands. Hitherto however, a cordial response has been given both by churches and individuals, and upon the aid thus obtained the Society has in part depended for its ability to maintain the efficiency of the work, and in soliciting a continuance of this aid the committee deems it advisable that the Society should be represented by one fresh from the scene of its operations, and well acquainted with the country and its spiritual destitution.

The Committee was fortunately able to secure the services of the Revd. W. M. Roger, M. A., of the Canada Presbyterian Church, who has furnished the following brief report of his first three months labours ;

## REPORT OF REV. W. M. ROGER, M. A.

Having spent the earlier part of November, (1871,) in visiting different parts of the field of the Society's operations, and perfecting by personal observation my acquaintance with its work, I took passage in the S. S. "Scandinavian," from Québec, on the 25th of that month. After a somewhat tedious and protracted voyage we were landed late on Saturday, (9th Dec. ) in Liverpool. Taking merely the Sabbath for rest, after ascertaining that nothing could be done there at that time, I proceeded at once to Edinburgh, and thence shortly to Glasgow. Some time was necessarily spent in gaining "interviews," and other measures necessary to the preparation of a circular, and to arrangements for meetings. A successful public meeting in Glasgow experience had shown to be hopeless, and the more promising plan of congregational visits adopted, while one general meeting on behalf of the Ladies Committee was held in the Religious Institution Rooms, with however but a small attendance. Principal Fairbairn was kindly present and addressed the meeting.

A similar meeting was held with rather better success in Craigie Hall, Edinburgh, on the 30th of January, when the chair was occupied by the Rev. H. W. Smith, Parish Minister of Kirknewton. Assistance in addressing the meeting was kindly given to your agent by the Revs. Dr. McCrie and W. Arnot. The aid of the latter was most valuable, from the very warm manner in which he spoke from long personal acquaintance, of the tried christian worth of those longest and most intimately associated with the management of the Mission. "Anything contributed was safe in their hands."

The accomplishment of these Meetings was greatly aided by our faithful friends Miss Pinkerton in Glasgow, and Mrs. McNider in Edinburgh.

## Other Meetings and Services were held as follows:—

Free College Ch.	Glasgow,	Dec. 20	Trinity Ch.	Aberdeen,	Feb. 25
Free Renfield Ch.	"	Jan. 3	Gilcomston Ch.	"	Feb. 25
Religious Institution Rooms,	"	Jan. 4	Free East Ch.	"	Feb. 28
Wellpark Ch.	"	Jan. 10	Free High Ch.	"	March 10
Sidney Place Ch.	"	Jan. 17	West Parish Ch.	"	"
Free High Ch.	Paisley,	Jan. 14	Free South Ch.	"	"
Abbey Ch.	"	"	Panmure St. Cong. Ch.	Dundee,	March 3
Oakshaw St. Ch.	"	"	St. Paul's Ch.	"	"
Congregational Ch.	Greenock,	Jan. 21	Wilson Ch.	Perth,	March 6
Cartsburn Parish Ch.	"	"	Free Ch.	Pitcairngreen,	March 7
Sir Michael St. U. P. "	"	"	Parish Ch.	Elgin,	March 17
Cobourg St., U. P. Ch.	Leith,	Jan. 28	Free South Ch.	"	"
Iron Parish Ch.	Edinburgh,	"	Moss St. U. P. Ch.	"	"
Craigie Hall,	"	Jan. 30	Free High Ch.	"	March 18
Free St. Andrew's Ch.	"	Feb. 4	Free Ch.	Dingwall,	March 20
Junction St., U. P. Ch.	Leith,	"	"	Fain,	March 21
Free St. Luke's Ch.	Edinburgh,	Feb. 8	High Ch.	Inverness,	March 24
Parish Ch.	Peebles,	Feb: 11	Free High Ch.	"	"
"	"	(Even'g) "	Free East Ch.	"	"
Free Ch.	Kelso,	Feb. 13	Free North Ch.	Stirling,	March 31
Parish Ch.	Kirknewton,	Feb. 18	Union Hall Ch.	"	"

In regard to the following collections \* here reported, it must be remembered that those in Edinburgh and Glasgow, are independent of those usually made by resident friends, and are elsewhere duly acknowledged. So far it has not yet been found practicable to revive old, or form new organizations, though it is hoped something of that nature, so much to be desired, may yet be accomplished. It is only as people are interested that such results will follow.

Many most instructive incidents occurring in the course of the work might be narrated did space permit. The voluntary contributions of the poor have sometimes, like the widow's mite of old, been most pleasing and instructive. At Dundee an old man in working garments called the day after the meeting, and saying he knew what persecution and trial were, asked that his offering, a pound note, should be accepted for those who had to endure so much in Canada. The morning after a meeting at Dingwall, where the case of J. C., at Pointe-aux-Trembles, had been described, a letter from an unknown source came to the Free Church manse. Hoping its perusal may be blessed to some reader, I give a somewhat corrected copy, trusting its illiteracy will be forgotten in admiration of its spirit.—

MY DEAR SIR,

I hope you will accept of this little sum, when the preacher was speaking last night I wept sore because I could not put my hand to the cause of Christ and I asked the Lord if He would give it to me that I would willingly give it to them, and before I went home I got ten Shillings that my husband sent me, with the guard of the train

\* This Collections will be acknowledged in the annual report,

this Shilling is for the Canada girl with my humble prayer that she would be taught by the Holy Ghost, that is to say if ever I prayed for myself in truth before God. I hope you will excuse boldness.

I am yours,

A POOR FRIEND.

Truly we may say of her, "She hath done what she could." "Go thou and do likewise."

### POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES SCHOOLS.

The Public Examination of the pupils of the above schools, took place on Thursday, the 2nd of May. Owing to the lateness of the opening of navigation, the steamboat was unable to make its usual trip, which prevented many friends from being present on the occasion.

James Court, Esq., presided, and after the opening devotional exercises, Lt. Col. Haultain, Secretary of the Society, read an abstract of the following Report of the Education sub-committee.

#### REPORT OF THE EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

2nd May, 1872.

In presenting the Report of the Session now about to close, the sub-committee would express its great regret, that during the past winter, owing to many pressing duties, the Revd. Professor MacVicar had been obliged to resign the position of Chairman, and it would record its sense of the advantage the schools have derived during the time he was able to give an active and continuous attention to them.

#### ATTENDANCE.

One hundred and four pupils have passed through the schools during the Session, of whom 57 were male and 47 female: The latter is a much larger proportion than in former years, and to contain them the building was taxed to its utmost capacity.

The following classification will show the age and religion of the pupils.

#### BOY'S SCHOOL.

Pupils from 12 to 14 years old.	16	Children, of R. C. parents,	24
" 14 to 21	40	" Protestants,	9
" 21 and upwards,	1	" Converts,	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>		<b>57</b>

of the above, 16 could not read when coming to the School.

#### GIRLS SCHOOL.

Pupils from 12 to 16 years old,	15	Children of Roman Catholic parents,	25
" 14 to 21	31	" Converts,	21
" of 21 and upwards,	1	" Protestant,	1
	<b>47</b>		<b>47</b>

of the above, 14 could not read when coming to the School.

## SUBJECTS TAUGHT.

Whilst there is every desire to secure for the pupils of these schools, as thorough instruction in the elementary branches of education, as their limited attendance will permit, the great objects of religious training and personal salvation are ever kept prominently in view.

Family worship morning and evening, and the regular and devout recognition of God's bounty and providential care, help to give a practical aspect to the formal instruction from the Scriptures, which is for one hour daily given to the whole school by the Principal, the Revd. Mr. Des Islets.

The course of instruction includes Reading and Grammar in French and English, Geography, Writing, Arithmetic, Geometry, Recitation, Composition, Book-keeping, Natural Philosophy and vocal music. The female pupils have regular lessons also in sewing, and are engaged in the household duties of the establishment, such as washing, ironing, cooking, &c. The pupils of the boy's school, besides having to perform the greater part of the domestic requirements of their house, have to draw water, cut wood, and such other outside labors, as the two establishments require.

From the foregoing it will be seen, that without losing sight of the important duties of every day life, the effort is made to awaken and instruct the conscience, and to inform and educate the mind, and thus to lay a foundation for future improvement and usefulness.

## PROGRESS OF PUPILS.

The private examination of the Schools, on the 24th April, afforded the educational sub-committee the opportunity of judging of the result of the session. It was eminently satisfactory and reflected great credit upon both the teachers and the pupils. In judging of these results, there are two things to be kept in mind, viz:—the ignorance of most of the pupils upon first coming to the school, and the shortness of the time they remain at it. Three sessions of seven months each is more than the average allotted to each pupil, and during this time they have to perform much manual labor in connection with household duties, which in the case of the female pupils curtails the hours of study; and it is certainly deserving of consideration whether some arrangements should not be made to relieve the advanced pupils of such work as would interfere with their regular attendance at class hours.

The Sub-Committee believes that much progress has been made during the session in the real education of the scholars. To awaken thought and conscience whilst directing both, is ever aimed at as the key stone of the system sought to be established. The elder scholars have



shown the thoroughness of the instruction given, by the intelligence and interest manifested by them during their examination, which was specially noticeable in Arithmetic, Geography, and Natural Philosophy. Ollendorf's Text Book has been introduced with good effect in the English classes; and it is a marked sign of the times, that the French Canadians evince a great desire to learn and speak the English language.

In accordance with the policy adopted by the society, two of the pupils will be prepared to enter the McGill Normal School at its next session, in order to perfect themselves for the important position of teachers. These are Rosanna Cousineau and Georgina Lemoine, both daughters of converts from the Church of Rome.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE CHURCH.

During the session, there has been a marked improvement in the general tone and bearing of the pupils, giving full proof of the influence exerted over them by those in charge. Above all it is matter for devout thankfulness that the gracious influences of the Spirit of God have not been withheld, for we have to rejoice that five of the male and five of the female scholars have professed their faith in Jesus Christ, and have been admitted into the fellowship of the church.

It may be fitting in this place to record, not only additions to the church militant, but also that our senior and perhaps most promising female scholar has been called to join the church triumphant.

Mathilde Mayotte, aged 17, fell asleep in Jesus on 4th March. She was attacked with typhoid fever, and sank rapidly under it. Not a doubt or fear clouded her simple, yet intelligent and firm faith in the Saviour of sinners. Her hope was in the sufficiency of His work as her substitute. She believed God's own declaration, that "the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from *all* sin," and man's words and acts were superfluous.

She had been a member of the church for two years previous to her death, during which time she had manifested in her daily life the reality of the faith she professed. She died beloved and regretted by all who knew her.

May we not hope that in this dispensation of God's providence, He has purposes of grace to those who remain, and our prayer is, that the exhibition of her consistency in life, and her peace and confidence in death, may lead many of her companions to the feet of that Saviour, who was her strength and her salvation.

#### FINANCE.

During the past year extensive and necessary repairs have been effected at an outlay of \$400. The constant increase taking place in the cost

of living must have its effect upon the expenditure of this as of every other department of the work, but it is also an indication of general prosperity, and an increased ability to meet it.

About 50 of the pupils have been supported by special contributions. One gentleman at Brantford, Ont., supports ten of them; another at Harrogate, Yorkshire, supports six; eighteen are maintained by Sabbath Schools in connection with the Canada Presbyterian Church, three by those of Congregational Churches, and the remainder by private individuals.

In the last Annual Report, attention was drawn to the great want of some of the more modern improvements and conveniences introduced into the educational institutions of the present day. Considering the labor-devolving upon the pupils, in addition to their studies, and the increased care and supervision thereby required of those in charge, it is of the first moment that every possible facility should be afforded for the management of the establishments.

The Committee would express the conviction, that such schools should not be far behind the most improved institutions of the kind, and it would afford them no little satisfaction were the necessary funds forth-coming, *without weakening other departments of the work*, for promoting such improvements as would materially lighten the task both of the teachers and the taught.

#### STAFF OF TEACHERS.

It is interesting to notice, as was also done in the last Report of the Society, that amongst the staff now employed are to be found Episcopalian, Methodist and Presbyterian; whilst as regards nationality, French Canadian, American, French, and English, each finds its representative. This sustains the undenominational character of the work, and is conclusive proof of the real unity that subsists amongst the members of evangelical Churches.

Rev. Mr. Des Islets, though still in a delicate state of health, has been able to continue his duties as Principal and Pastor, and to give the important daily lesson in the Scriptures. He has been most ably and cordially seconded, and in a measure relieved by Mr. Bourgoin, who has succeeded Mr. Cornu as Assistant Master, and whose qualifications seem to fit him in a peculiar degree for the position he now occupies. Mr. Garayt has greatly assisted in the general oversight of the pupils, and has also aided in the instruction of the junior classes.

Madame Des Islets continues her active management of the domestic affairs of the Boy's school, and has very kindly and efficiently given instruction in vocal music.

The Girl's school has been efficiently presided over by Miss Wythe, deriving much advantage from her increased experience in the work. She has been ably and cordially assisted by Miss Merrick in the performance of her arduous duties. The general prevalence of sickness in this neighbourhood, and the death of their most advanced scholar, have added in no small measure to their anxieties, and the close of the session finds them both with impaired health. But it is sincerely hoped that a long vacation will provide the needed rest, and that they will be able at the next session, to resume the duties they are so well fitted to discharge.

The Committee cannot close this report, without an expression of their high sense of the admirable manner in which the establishments have been conducted, and would convey to those named their cordial congratulations at the results of their winter's labors.—How to make these Schools more effective for the Evangelization of the French Canadian population, is constantly the thought and aim of the Committee, and their prayer is that all needful help and wisdom may be vouchsafed to them for the right discharge of the responsibilities resting upon them.

After the reading of the Report, the Biblical Examination took place at considerable length, the Principal, the Rev. Mr. Des Islets, taking such subjects as were suggested by those present. The Rev. Chas Tanner of Sherbrooke, very kindly translated the questions and answers given, for the benefit of those not conversant with the French language.

The following were the main subjects under review :—

The Divinity of Jesus Christ. Who is the only Saviour? Confession. Purgatory. How are we saved? By faith or by works? Papal Infallibility. These elicited many intelligent replies, with apt quotations from the Holy Scriptures.

At the conclusion of this Examination two original compositions were read, the one on the Syro-Phenician woman by Joseph Morin, the other on prayer by Georquin Lemoine. Of both of them the Rev. Mr. Tanner spoke most favorably, and of the former he remarked, that it gave a most excellent and graphic description, evidencing also a thorough apprehension of the gospel plan of salvation, such as would do no discredit to a Student of divinity, and that many a worse homily had been submitted by applicants for the ministry.

It is well to draw attention to the above instances among many, as illustrating the nature and results of the work effected at these schools. How vastly different would have been the minds and consciences of those young persons, had they been left to the ordinary training of a Roman Catholic school in a remote parish.

The following resolution was then moved by the Revd. Professor MacVicar and seconded by the Revd. Chs. Tanner, and carried.

“This meeting, whilst commending in high terms the efficiency and zeal of the Directors of these schools, would devoutly recognize God’s hand in whatever of success has followed their labours, both as regards the spiritual influences that have been manifested, and the order and harmony that have prevailed.”

In the course of his remarks Dr. MacVicar stated how much satisfaction he had derived from a partial attendance at the private examination. He alluded to the ten cases of conversion amongst the pupils during the Session as results that cannot be measured, and that entirely eclipse the toil and expenditure instrumentally employed. Devout thanks were indeed due to Him who alone is the author of peace, and the giver of success.

Dr. MacVicar also gave important counsels to the pupils. He urged them to remember their responsibilities to their countrymen, to endeavour to emancipate them from priestly domination, to inform themselves on all public questions and to assist in forming a public opinion, that might restrict the priestly power that has paralysed so long the country of their birth. They had freely received and therefore they should freely give, circulate the Scriptures, speak boldly of what they had heard and learnt, and in every way, and at all times seek, with God’s help and blessing, to enlighten their countrymen.

At the Chairman’s request, Mr. Tanner in seconding the resolution, translated into French, the substance of Dr. MacVicar’s remarks, so that the pupils not sufficiently acquainted with English, might also have the benefit of them, endorsing thoroughly the sentiments expressed.

After the singing of another hymn in English, by the pupils, the meeting closed with the benediction by Dr. MacVicar.

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### COLPORTAGE.

The work of the Evangelist Colporteur is that which principally gives a distinctive character to the French Canadian Missionary Society. It is peculiarly adapted to meet the circumstances of the Roman Catholic population of Lower Canada. It is too missionary in its character to be largely carried out by the Auxiliary Bible Societies, and yet appears the only efficient means of disseminating the Scriptures. It forms the foundation of church work, and has been mainly instrumental in procuring the success that has been vouchsafed to the operations of the Society.

It is therefore important that frequent and lengthened notice should be given of the labors of the missionaries so employed. Extracts from their journals are given below,——

One of the Colporteurs in his month's Journal states:—

“I went up on the south shore of the River. All along that river the people treated me with kindness, and in C—— I called on two families. To one of them I sold a New Testament a year ago, and a Bible to the other. Both of these families are excluded from the Romish church, because they will not give up their books. The priest told them that the books were bad books, and if they would give them to him, he would give them better ones. They replied that as soon as he brought them, he should have them; but he never came with any. They continued to read the Scriptures, and finally came to the 23rd chapter of Matthew, and applied it to the Romish church. The women got alarmed and afraid of the books. While they were in this state a Canadian who is living six miles distant came to them and mentioned that he had a Bible that was approved by a Bishop, and he lent it to them. They compared the two and found out that the meaning was the same in both. (This Bible, a de Sacy copy, was sold by me to one M— B—— about twenty years ago). This put them at ease and they read them together. About this time the Jesuits came to hold their protracted meetings. They said that the Bible is the pure word of God, all it wanted is the approbation of the Church, but it is hard to understand and might lead them astray. When I left them I was obliged to promise that I would often write to them, for they will have no more communication with the Romish Church. I spent two days with them and in the evening their houses were always filled with people to hear the Gospel of peace.

At H—— the people are polite but there is scarcely any religious feeling towards the Gospel.

At B—— the people do not show much opposition. I could read and speak on what I read, nearly in every house. The people were glad to hear me, but they nearly all said that the priests forbid them to buy any of these books, and they did not know the reason. I gave them an insight to a certain extent, why the priests did not want them to read these books. In the East of B—— there are a few English speaking Protestants, with whom I held a meeting on Sabbath.

At T——, which is a newly settled place, they are building a church, and although very anxious to buy the New Testament, they had not the money to do so. I sold it to them for sugar and with it paid my expenses. One woman wanted to have a Bible, but had neither sugar nor money, so I sold it to her for Canadian linen, so you see we must traffic for our books, for they do not want to buy them on credit. I had some very good conversations in this place, and the people generally collected in the evenings to hear the Gospel explained to them. Here I sold the remainder of my books, and so was obliged to turn my face homeward.

Another Missionary states:—

At E——, I colported for several hours without placing a single book, when I was overtaken by a heavy shower of rain, which making the walking impracticable, obliged me to ask shelter at a farmer's house. I found six others who like myself had taken refuge. When I entered a lively conversation was going on about

a Nun's prediction of three days of darkness that had been talked of for some time. Seeing the importance they attached to the matter, I thought it a good opportunity to make them acquainted with the Scriptures, and said "it is true there are Prophecies which tell us "the Sun shall be turned into darkness and the Moon into blood." The word of God said this long before the Nun lived who is believed to know the future, and besides it says in the same place "that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." This shows us clearly that it is not by consecrated candles, nor any other thing of the kind, which will save us from the wrath of God, when that terrible time shall come, but the blood of Jesus. These words surprised and even seemed to frighten some. I then opened the Testament, and asked if they believed the Gospel. "Yes, certainly," all replied. I then read several passages and explained them, the people paying much attention. When the weather cleared up and we were separating, two bought Testaments and a third, after enquiring if I was a Swiss and receiving satisfaction on that point, gave me half a dollar and took a copy.

(In connection with this prophecy it is said that large quantities of candles were blessed by the priest to be lighted during the darkness.)

At V—, I sold eight Testaments to some young people at a pic-nic, but one of them was burned in my presence in a house where I had placed some tracts. This for a time prevented any sale but finally a Doctor bolder than the others bought a Testament saying it was the best of books.

At C—, I sold a Testament to a Notary who two years since wished to persuade me that the reading of the Scriptures was only profitable to those who had made special studies, and therefore the church of Rome, as a loving mother, had forbidden their perusal. Now however his language was greatly changed. I stayed with him, on invitation, all the evening which was employed in searching the Testament for passages teaching the obligation to know the word of God, the result of which was to decide him to buy a copy.

From another Journal the following is an extract :—

At ——— several Canadians have received the New Testament, and read it. One of them, although still a Roman Catholic, was opposed by others who wished to set him against the "Swiss book." The mistress of his boarding house, spoke very violently against the Gospel. "I could wish" she said. "that all the curzed Swiss books were at the bottom of the St. Lawrence." "Madame," replied the young man, "if you succeeded in destroying all the Gospels which are on our continent, I would be prepared to fast long enough, to save as much money as would enable me to cross the Ocean to seek a Bible in the old world." For this declaration he was turned out of the boarding house, and was obliged to seek another, but he kept his Bible.

## FINANCES.

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The increased demand for labor in this country, with the consequent increase in the cost of living, is seriously affecting the financial position of the society. The committee is most anxious not to curtail its operations, but without an increase to its income, the necessary addition to Missionaries' salaries, will necessitate a decrease in their number. Several more colporteurs are urgently needed, if the field is to be at all adequately occupied, and the committee would earnestly bespeak additional help. The abundant prosperity of the country would warrant the hope, that the Lord's treasury may be correspondingly prospered.

All remittances and communications to be made to

COL. HAULTAIN,

*(Secretary and Treasurer,)*

Bible House, Montreal.