

Wm. Grindley

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Canadian Auxiliary

OF THE

McALL MISSION

FRANCE.



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ELLIS, MOORE & BANGS, 39 & 41 MELINDA ST.,
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1889.

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1889.

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
—OF THE—
CANADIAN AUXILIARY,
McAll Mission.

IN looking over the past year it is with gratitude to the Divine Giver of all good, that we note the steady advance of the work in France, as shown in the increased attendance and interest, in the testimony of converts and personal hold and acquaintance which has been quietly growing during the unremitting labours of fifteen years. We note the opening of seven new halls by the Mission this year, Grenelle, Poitiers, Chatellerault, Vassy, Cherbourg, Rue de Rivoli and Neuilly; in the former uses of the two latter halls there is indeed a contrast, that of the Rue de Rivoli having been a ball and billiard room frequented by the very lowest classes of persons, that of Neuilly having been a branch French Protestant Church. On the death of their pastor the congregation was incorporated with that of the French Protestant Church of the Parish. The hall is large, accommodating three hundred and has been obtained under singularly favourable terms in consequence of the sympathy of the proprietor, a rich Protestant lawyer. This is the 120th station of the Mission.

Of the many agencies employed by the McAll Mission, there are two we would like to mention. First, the free dispensaries, two of which are in Paris, both under the superintendence of Dr. Anderson. They are open four times a week. Over fifty are treated each time; this is the number it is wished to limit it to, yet the doors are

often besieged by a dozen or two more who come from a distance and cannot be refused. At these dispensaries there is first a service of about thirty minutes ; then, whilst the patients are being seen one by one by the doctor, some of the ladies of the Mission sing to those who are waiting and speak to them of spiritual things ; medicine and advice are free.

Dr. Anderson says : " At all medical dispensaries Christ has given to his disciples a two-fold opportunity of winning souls ; they remind him of a certain river in England where you can fish with a rod in both hands, or of the ornamental pond at St. Cloud, where in hot weather the gold-fish swarm to such an extent, and come so close to the bank, that you can catch with your hand as many as you like." At St. Etienne, a manufacturing town with over 100,000 inhabitants, not far from Lyons, there is also a dispensary in connection with the Mission which is self-supporting, and in connection with it is a night-asylum for wayfarers with thirty scrupulously clean beds. Each traveller is given a bowl of soup on retiring and another in the morning on leaving ; thirty thousand bowls of soup were given during the year. The Missionary boats are also worthy of mention, of which there are two, both owned by Mr. Cook, of Gosport, and loaned by him to the McAll Mission, the "Mystery" for pioneer work on the canals,—she has also visited La Rochelle and Nantes ; the other, the "Herald of Mercy," plies along the northern coast, visiting Havre, Trouville, Cherbourg, Brest and St. Brieux. Six years ago the boat first visited Trouville, a fashionable watering place, and now on its second visit was found the fruit of the work in a group of saved souls, who meet every alternate Sunday for worship. At Cherbourg, where a hall was opened this year, there is an arsenal employing one thousand hands, and an armour-clad fleet lies in the harbour ; in all there are nine thousand young men under severe discipline far from home. They form the colonial army and are intended for the marshes of Tonquin or the fever districts of Senegal. Of one hundred that sail, it is said, not thirty return.

It is worthy of mention that while England and America are working for the evangelization of France the people

themselves are willing to do their share. The Protestants of Rheims have lately contributed 20,000 francs for the construction of two halls ; the pastors of the place undertake the charge of the services. This collection was gathered in a few days and speaks most eloquently of French appreciation of the McAll Mission. Such a gift out of their narrow resources means more than a much larger sum from the prosperous Christians of England and America.

For many years the question of Church fellowship and ordinances for those brought to the Saviour in the Mission's halls, has cost Mr. McAll and his fellow-labourers much anxious thought. Mr. McAll had hoped that as the converts became soundly instructed in Christian truth and gently led into Christian practice, and as their desire for church membership became strong they would join the church of their choice, whatever that denomination might be. Many have already done so ; nevertheless, a large number who are earnest Christians remained in the Mission halls without making any definite religious profession, the apparent coldness of the French Protestant ritual chills them and they prefer the simplicity of the Mission hall. A plan has been formed which it is hoped will remove all difficulties ; it is two-fold, first, wherever a Mission hall is placed within easy reach of a Christian church of whatever denomination of which the pastor is in sympathy with the work, that pastor is asked to form a branch of his own church in the Mission hall. Second, where there is no Christian church within easy reach any faithful pastor of any of the denominations will be invited to form (if he is able to do so) a Mission church to be attached to the denomination to which he belongs. Of these churches, four are now in process of formation—one in the Central Station of Bonne Nouvelle in connection with the French Reformed Church, the second is an open Baptist Church under the pastorate of M. Saillens, the third is a Free Church under Pastor Fisch, and the fourth belongs to the Free Church also. It must be clearly understood that this annexation of a station in no wise affects the character of the McAll Mission work nor the use of its funds. That work goes on as before and is entirely

independent of these Churches ; their part is to pay a portion of the rent, to open the hall for Sunday morning service (never yet attempted by the Mission), and to form a church and administer the Sacrament. By the adoption of these two methods the liability to form a separate sect has been avoided. It is the intention of the Mission to hold daily evangelistic services during the Paris Exposition in a hall in the Avenue Rapp, directly opposite the main building, in connection with the Evangelical Alliance and the British and Foreign Bible Society. The hall accommodates three hundred and fifty persons. A second smaller hall has been secured at the other entrance, at the Trocadéro. Here also daily services will be held. It will be remembered that a similar work was carried on by Mr. McAll during the last Paris Exposition, and with beneficial results.

In making a *résumé* of the work of the Canadian Auxiliary, we are pleased to state that the interest is spreading. The average attendance at the monthly meeting is 35; membership 208, including seven life members. We receive letters from time to time from Mr. McAll, and also from M. Dürreman, evangelist in charge of Rochefort and La Rochelle, stations we are directly interested in. These letters give us detailed accounts of the work, of conversions, and encouraging testimonies. We think we have a very devoted worker in M. Dürreman; he is untiring in his zeal. Mr. McAll speaks of him in one of his latest letters as "a man of great simplicity and depth of Christian character." Several Bible readings have been given by members of the Auxiliary with much profit. As the Mission becomes more widely known here, friends visiting France frequently visit the Mission and bring back accounts of it which are stimulating to those at home. Twice lately we have listened with much pleasure to two of our members who have given us graphic accounts of their visit to several of the Stations and of their meeting with those self-sacrificing men and women who are associated with Mr. McAll in this work. An effort was made to extend the work into other cities and towns in Canada by establishing Auxiliaries. Letters were sent to ladies in these cities asking their advice and co-opera-

tion ; but it was found that at present, at least, though all expressed sympathy with the work, it was not thought practicable to form any.

The treasurer has received \$1326.93 this year, \$460.00 of which she forwarded to Mr. McAll in June last. This money has been in a large part received from Toronto, also from Windsor, Ayr, Montreal, Woodstock, Collingwood, Galt, Peterboro, Barrie, Cobourg, Motherwell, Kincardine, Chatsworth, Brantford, Port Hope, Hamilton, Chesley and Greenville.

We receive the *French Quarterly*, the paper published by the Mission in France ; the *American Record*, published by the American McAll Association, and pamphlets such as "The Needs of France," "A Popular Mission," "Women of French Protestantism," "What France Thinks of the McAll Mission." These are for distribution. It is by means of our literature that the knowledge of the work is diffused, and we reach many we otherwise would not.

We wish to express our thanks to the ministers who have so kindly announced our monthly meetings from the pulpit throughout the year ; to the ladies who so kindly sang for us ; to the church and daily papers, for inserting notices of the meetings ; to the Young Men's Christian Association, for their great kindness in placing at our disposal so pleasant a room as their library, where we held our meetings for the past year ; and to Mr. Blackett Robinson, for printing the posters in connection with Dr. Pierson's meeting in Knox Church.

Let us hope that the coming year will be marked with much faithfulness and much grace, as we remember that God has highly honoured us in appointing to our care these two stations, Rochefort and La Rochelle ; but with the honour comes also the grave responsibility of so great a trust.

MARTHA CARTY,
Sec'y.

CANADIAN AUXILIARY OF THE McALL MISSION.
TREASURER'S STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY, 1889.

R E C E I P T S.		E X P E N D I T U R E.	
To Balance on hand February, 1888 ..	\$53 67	By Printing Annual Reports ..	\$21 50
" Mission Box	2 70	" Janitor's fee, Y. M. C. A. Hall ..	5 00
" Sale of Hymn-books donated by Mrs. Blake	2 50	" Advertisements	6 00
" Sale of Pamphlets " " Miss M. Carty	0 95	" Postage and stationery	7 00
" Chalmers' Ch. Bible Class, Guelph ..	9 20	" Janitor's fee, Knox Church.. ..	2 00
" Special Contributions for Annual Reports	13 00	" Rev. Dr. Pierson	50 00
" Old St. Andrew's Sabbath School, Toronto	25 00	" Remittance to Paris, June, 1888 ..	460 00
" Two Life Members' fees	50 00	" " " Feb., 1889 ..	740 00
" Cash per Rev. Dr. Reid	226 50		<u>\$1291 50</u>
" Donations from 25 cts. to \$100 ..	733 45	By Balance on hand	35 43
" Collection (Dr. Pierson's meeting)..	205 60		
" Interest on deposits.. .. .	4 36		
	<u>\$1326 93</u>		<u>\$1326 93</u>
To Balance on hand February, 1889 ..	\$35 43		

Audited and found correct,
JOHN PATON.

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The payment of Twenty-five Cents per Year constitutes Membership.

☞ Where the place of residence is not mentioned, Toronto will be understood.

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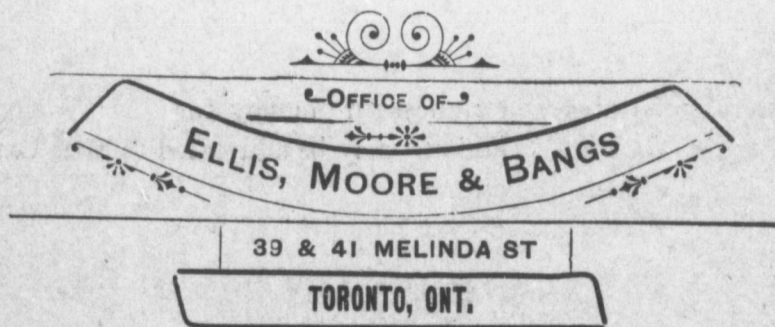
1888.
Miss Smith.
Miss Annie Smith.

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* * *

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