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# W. B. M. U. TIDINGS

Vol 2 Amherst, N.S., April, 1895. No. 17.

## MOTTO FOR THE YEAR

"Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak  
or your work shall be rewarded."

## PRAYER TOPIC:

For our Grand Ligne Mission that the workers may be  
faithful, and the new converts made strong in the Lord

## LETTER FOR "TIDINGS."

Grand Ligne, Feb. 20th 1895.

Dear Fellow-Workers :-

With great pleasure I accede to the request of  
your secretary to furnish a letter for "Tidings," this  
month. Firstly.

Our Field—The Province of Quebec contains an  
area of 227,000 sq. miles; has a population of 1,500,000  
of these 1,300,000, are in the darkness of Rome. In  
Ontario there are 101,000 French Canadian Roman-  
ists and in the Maritime Provinces not less than 103,  
000 of the same origin and faith.

Here are a few sample counties from Quebec.  
L'Islet has a population of 13,823, and only One lone  
Protestant; Kamouraska (the field of Father Chiniq's  
labors prior to his conversion) 20,454 and only three  
of these are Protestants; Bellechasse 18,368, four of  
whom are Protestants; Montmorency, 12,309, the odd  
nine being Protestants. Ponder well these figures,  
What do they tell us? They indicate that in the  
Provinces named there are nearly as many French  
Romanists as there are Telegus on the mission

field occupied by the Maritime Province in India. Further, in these four counties of Quebec which have been named, there is a population of 62,000 people:—equal to one fourth of the entire population of the province of Manitoba, and the whole of the North West Territories; and only seventeen persons who are even nominally Protestants. If the same proportions were maintained in your North West field there would be only sixty eight protestants in the whole population of Manitoba and the great North West. Or if the same conditions were found in British Columbia there would be about twenty-five Protestants there.

I would that we could study these figures and what they teach upon our knees, until the sense of our weighty responsibility pressed upon us with constraining power.

While many of these people are very sincere, let it not be forgotten that sincerity alone will not save them. It is possible to be sincerely wrong, and to be eternally lost, notwithstanding their sincerity. When a man puts a scalpula, in the place of the cross, a human saint in the stead of the "one mediator," trusts in the "lying wonders" said to be wrought by dry mouldy bones, and pins his faith to fragments of relics rather than to the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, however sincere he may be, he is a lost soul; needing the gospel of the Son of God just as much as the most benighted heathen in far off lands. See Acts  
IV 12

We need to realize that these people right at our own doors are perishing for lack of knowledge, and that we are under deepest obligation to supply that lack. Did you ever ask yourselves "Why did God place this dark, dark province between the bright Maritime Provinces on the one hand and the equally bright Ontario on the other? I believe it was, that rays of light from both East and West might penetrate its spiritual gloom; and unless we are true to our mission, its darkness will sweep with increasing force over our borders and envelop us, and God will require at our hands the souls who are perishing through our neglect.

They are our fellow citizens. God has bound them up in the bundle of National life with us, and the future of a fair Dominion will largely be shaped

by our attitude towards this people. If by our earnest efforts they are evangelized "ours shall be the righteousness that exalteth a nation," if we shall fail to perform our duty towards them, the sad conditions which have marred the destiny of all Roman Catholic countries will be ours. The future is in our hands.

While there are times when the almost universal prevalence of this darkness appals, we are cheered by the declaration of God's word, that in His plan the Antichrist is a conquered foe, and the many encouragements that are met with in our work.

Never in the history of the Mission were the people more accessible than now. Many are weary with the galling chains of superstition and tyranny with which they have so long been bound, they are looking to us for the gospel of liberty, peace and salvation with eager beseeching gaze, our ears are saluted with the cry "Come over and help us" and

"Shall we whose souls are lighted"

"With wisdom from on high"

"Shall we, to men benighted"

"The Lamp of life deny"

Their is a peril however even in their cry for liberty. Many are turning from formalism to Universalism on the one hand, and from the superstitions of Rome into Infidelity on the other. If you could see the perils of this state of transition as those view it who are engaged in the work, you would appreciate the appeal for "more laborers" for this great work. Merchants, professional men, and others of the more thoughtful classes, are now ready to talk about these things of the kingdom, to the great encouragement of the workers. The seed which has been scattered for years is producing fruit to the glory of God's Grace.

The work attempted by the mission is very wide—first, we are endeavouring to do for Quebec what Horton Academy and Acadia Seminary are doing for the Maritime Provinces.—When you remember that the greater majority of Public Schools are Catholic you will see the great necessity for this work. This year we are again full to overflowing, being compelled to turn over 50 young men and women from our doors for lack of accommodation.

Nine of these students professed Christ in Baptism a few weeks ago, and a number of others give evid-

ence of having passed from death unto life.

Every year we spend hundreds of dollars in the circulation of God's word and Christian literature in the French language. Our colporteurs are much encouraged at times by the readiness with which some receive the word.

At many points scattered through the province our missionaries are at work with more or less of blessing upon their labors. A building has been purchased in an excellent locality in the city of Quebec, so that we now shall have permanent quarters for our work in this city, which has shown such bitter opposition to the truth.

You will all be glad to know that it is expected that Mr. Grencir and his true helpmeet expect to begin work in Nova Scotia on the first of May next. For them your sympathy and earnest, fervent prayers are asked. In all there are 36 workers on our field.

In conclusion permit me to say in view of the great needs of this part of the Dominion and its close proximity to you how deeply pained the Grand Ligne Board felt, that you should find it necessary to reduce the small grant formerly given, and to express the hope that you may see your way clear not only to restore the gift of last year but to increase it very largely.

Pray for Quebec its poor benighted people, and missionaries there. They are an earnest, consecrated band of workers.

**Yours in Service**

**E. BOSWORTH,**

**Field Secretary**

**Grand Ligne Mission.**