

from these references I received and still hold a clear and distinct impression of each of the four men just named. Still as these letters have long been destroyed, I would not venture at this late date to say more than that all of them, according to their respective gifts and aptitudes, worked zealously and faithfully. All had their friends and admirers—some more and some fewer.

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“May 15th, 1892, Alberni Church. Opening services and sermon by the Pioneer Missionary of Presbyterianism.

“On Sunday, 1st May, the Presbyterian Church on Alberni Townsite, was formally opened and dedicated to the public worship of God. The services were conducted by the Rev. A. Dunn, of Whonnock, who was the pioneer missionary to Alberni, having come from the Mainland in 1886, and leaving the district in 1889. The weather was all that could be desired, as being the brightest and warmest of the current year. The seating accommodation, consisting of chairs and benches, was fully occupied. The old residents were well represented, many of whom had come from distant parts of the valley. There were also present numerous strangers who have come in during this year, and who are engaged in work in connection with the paper and saw mills. A few Indians, and some of the members of the Roman Catholic Church were also present. Three or four infants formed a part of the congregation, one of whom was baptised by Mr. Dunn at the conclusion of the service. The musical part of the service was ably led by the eight members of the choir, under the direction of Mr. Howitt, the organist. The two readings from the Old and New Testament were performed by the resident minister, the Rev. Stables Smith.

Mr. Dunn preached a very instructive and suggestive sermon from the text, “Thou believest there is one God; thou doest well; the devils also believe and tremble; but well thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (James, Ch. II., verses 19 and 20). Mr. Dunn spoke for forty-five minutes, and kept up the attention of the audience to the close. The last few minutes were confined to remarks having special reference to the past, the present and the future of the Presbyterian Church Mission at Alberni. He spoke, as might be expected from the occasion and circumstances, with considerable display of feeling, and was listened to with uncommon attention.

“He said: ‘It is always pleasing to note signs of progress and prosperity in any community or in any Christian congregation, and I think all must admit that progress has been made here—I mean all who are in a position to compare and contrast our first meeting in Alberni for public worship on the 13th of November, 1886, with our meeting on this, the 1st day of May, 1892. Then the service was