

tributing much to the lessening of our numbers, is the recall of the Royal Engineers. Only a few have actually gone home, as they had their choice of getting their discharge here, and lose their pension when earned, or remain in the service and return. Nearly all remained here, except the officers who left us this week.

I expect three or four families, belonging to us, here in a month or two from Queenston, Woodstock, Goderich, etc. It is only an influx of families which will give us any appearance of permanency. Men who wish to make a change and come here, should not, by any means, leave their families behind. Far too many have done so. Those who come here with their families, able and willing to face the unavoidable hardships of all new countries, will have no reason to regret it in the course of a few years. I was very doubtful for a long time of the prospects of this colony, but every day now I am strengthened in the conviction that a very prosperous future is in store for this noble colony. Of course we may expect to meet with the usual difficulties and ups and downs—successes and reverses—but there can be no doubt of great prosperity in store for thousands who may be willing to make their home here, and grow with the growth of the country. The majority who make their “pile,” as it is called, take their gold to their former homes, and so far impoverish the colony, and lead some to think that it will be so still, and prevent the settlement of the country. But so it was in the early history of California. A man was thought demented if he talked of *settling* in such a wild, bleak, out-of-the-way place, where nothing would grow! Just look at it now.

You are doubtless aware a new Governor has been appointed for this colony. He is expected before a great while to arrive here, and his residence here, with his staff of officials, is expected to assist in the improvement of the capital as well as the colony generally.

I see by the newspapers that an Old Kirk minister—Mr. Nimmo—has been sent out from Scotland, and has started separate services, morning and evening, in Victoria. It is very sad to see this division so soon, and the Presbyterian Church, of all others, is ill able to bear it. Is there no remedy for this state of things here and elsewhere? I know of but one. O Spirit of Light and Love, breathe upon these dead bones, and they shall live and co-operate!

I am glad to learn from a letter from Mr. Reid by last mail, that you have appointed Mr. Duff to this colony. This is indeed “good news from a far country.” I have been all alone as long as I wish to be. We are all in good health, and quite satisfied with our lot as pioneers of the grand army.

Yours most faithfully,

ROBERT JAMIESON.

[We have received a later communication from Mr. Jamieson. Mr. Jamieson was making every effort to have the church opened in a few weeks. It was to be partly pewed. It was difficult to procure either workmen or materials. A soiree had been held, for the purpose of raising funds for pewing the church. There were present about 100 men and 11 females. The amount realized, after paying expenses, was \$117 50.]

LETTER FROM REV. MR. NISBET.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT, }
Nov. 24, 1863. }

REV. R. F. BURNS.

My Dear Brother.—Your very kind and most welcome letter was received little more than two weeks ago. I need hardly tell you how encouraging it is to us, at our distant outpost, to hear frequently from the main body of our little army,—to hear of their successes and their trials, their hopes and their fears.

We are thankful to hear of the encouraging prospects of the College this season. May the Lord make it a season rich in blessing both to Professors and