

had been giving such supply as he was able, to Granville, Moodyville, North Arm and Langley, in connection with New Westminster. On Mr. Thomson's arrival, Granville was but a mere hamlet, dependent for its existence upon an extensive saw-mill and a number of lumbering camps in the vicinity. The determination of the Canadian Pacific Railway to make Granville or Coal Harbor the terminus of the Road, instead of Port Moody, assured the prospects of the former while it ruined those of the latter. Within a year a city of considerable size and importance sprang up. Early in 1886 steps were taken to secure the erection of a church—a neat and comfortable building—which was scarcely finished when the disastrous fire of June, followed, and swept away almost every building in the place. The Missionary and the people at once set to work to rebuild and with some aid from the East, were successful in the course of a few months in having a comfortable and commodious hall completed. The city continuing to grow with wonderful rapidity, the congregation necessarily gained strength and shared in the general prosperity.

In March, 1886, the Rev. D. M. Gordon, then of Winnipeg, by appointment of the General Assembly, visited British Columbia with the view of conferring with Ministers and Missionaries, then laboring in the Province, about methods and plans for future work. Among other recommendations adopted at a meeting held in New Westminster was the creation by the next General Assembly of the Presbytery of Columbia. This recommendation having been adopted, the Presbytery was convened and constituted in St. Andrews Church, New Westminster, on the 3rd. of August, 1886, with the following Membership Roll:—Messrs. R. Jamieson, *Moderator*, D. Fraser, T. G. Thomson, D. MacRae, J. Chisholm, S. J. Taylor, J. A. Jaffray, Alex. Dunn, *Ministers*; and Alex. McDougall, Walter Clark and Fitzgerald McCleary, *Elders*; of whom the first five named were present.

The Presbytery of Columbia reported the first year to the General Assembly—9 Ministers on its Roll, 45 Churches and Mission Stations, 245 Communicants and \$ 11,024 raised for all purposes. For the year just closed there were reported—23 Ministers on the Roll, 69 Churches and Mission Stations, 2168 Communicants and \$ 59,751 raised for all purposes. These figures indicate steady, substantial and highly gratifying progress; efficient, faithful and self-denying labor on the part of Ministers, Missionaries, and other office-bearers; and active sympathy, co-operation and generous liberality on the part of the people. In congratulating ourselves on the advances that have been made, let us not fail on an occasion like the present, marking an interesting and important era in our history, to recognize and publicly acknowledge the sources of our success and present position. First, and pre-eminently, this success has been due to the Gospel as the power of God—but subordinate and necessary to the Gospel's power and influence on the hearts and lives of the people being felt, to the high Christian character, efficient, faithful and self-sacrificing labors of the missionaries of early days. Men subject to like passions with us, yet, it is not too much to say, that they did a noble work, and under conditions, not only unfavorable, but, often most discouraging and trying. The conditions, under which many of our missionaries labor to-day, are as we know well trying enough, but, as compared with earlier times, the lines have indeed fallen to us in pleasant places. These were the days of periodic excitements, followed by corresponding periods of stagnation: large influx of population which in a few months disappeared like snow from the mountain sides—the hope deferred which made the heart sick. Progress was slow under these conditions. This, however, did not prove either inefficiency or unfaithfulness. It could not be otherwise. What is true now in so many instances, was generally, if