

But by all means come. For blessed be God, you may bring with you words of compassion and love, more living and powerful than a two-edged sword, to pierce to the *heart* prodigals in a far country.

Very faithfully yours,

JOHN HALL.

LETTER FROM REV. MR. JAMIESON—OPENING OF CHURCH.

THE MANSE, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., }
December 28th, 1863. }

Rev. R. BURNS,

Dear Brother—I have at length the pleasure of informing you that we have actually taken possession of our new church. I have long looked forward to this point in our history with gratification, but for some months past I had almost despaired of ever reaching it. We were rather unfortunate in our selection of a contractor—if we can call that “selection” in which we had no choice, for we had to give it to one, or postpone the commencement of it indefinitely. If we had been able to enter the church about the beginning of November, it would have been very much in our favour financially and otherwise. I was so wearied waiting, that no sooner were the windows in and the last coat of plaster half dry, than I got stoves put in, four of the centre pews put up in a half finished state, procured temporary seats, and announced the opening services to take place on the 20th of December. So close, indeed, did the preparations trench upon the services, that the carpenters were at work up till eleven o’clock on Saturday night, and a few young men and I, who were at work at seats, lamps, table, and desk, etc., did not leave the Church until half-past eleven.

At the opening services we had no attractions to offer. We had no “great man” to call upon to give *eclat* to the occasion. I made some efforts to have a strange minister present to assist in the solemn, and to us, most interesting services, but failed in them all. For my own part, I was not over anxious. I esteemed it no little honour to be the officiating minister on the day when the first Presbyterian Church of British Columbia was dedicated to the worship of the Triune Jehovah. Wet and disagreeable as the day was, many amongst us needed no external attractions, no pressing invitations to come joyfully to the house of God, where they might sit under their own vine and fig tree to praise the Lord God of ‘heir fathers, who had done so great things for them. In the forenoon sermon I endeavoured to give expression to these feelings by preaching on the words of Psalm cxxii. 1,—“I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.” In the afternoon I preached Christ to a very large congregation of all denominations, from Romans v. 14,—Adam—“who is the figure of him who is to come.” In the evening’s services I took as the text the words of David to his son, in 1 Chron. xxii. 16.—“Arise, therefore, and be doing and the Lord be with thee.”

I hope it was a day of pleasure and profit, and a day long to be remembered by many.

Special collections were taken up at the forenoon and afternoon meetings, which resulted in seventy dollars at the former, and forty-two dollars at the latter.

A few weeks previous we had a soiree, the financial result of which reached \$117 50c. ; while yesterday, again, the Rev. Lachlan Taylor preached for me in the afternoon, and made a fresh appeal to the liberality of our friends almost in spite of me. The consequence was an addition of \$29 50 to our fund, which, with the ordinary collection of \$6 50 in the morning, made \$36 the second Sabbath. The total amount, therefore, raised in connection with our opening services—including tea-meeting, was the very handsome sum of \$266