

time to come. A solitary Presbyterian missionary in a wide field, I have had an opportunity of testing, by personal experience, the contrary plan; and as the result feel it incumbent on me to echo, if possible, to the ends of the earth what has so often reached the ear of the Church from the remote mission field, and what was early inculcated by the example of her Great Founder, that pioneers of the "Sacramental Host" should be sent out, not single handed, but in company.

Need it be said then that I shall hail with thankful heart the advent of a fellow-labourer to this large and long-neglected field. Coming as he does from a united Church, which is in fraternal alliance with the Church to which I have the honor to belong, I shall cordially claim your missionary as a brother: and I think I may also assure you that we shall not only endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, but so coöperate in our common work as to promote the interests of Presbyterianism, while we cultivate kindly feelings towards each other.

With reference to the inquiries you make in your favor of the 21st October, I think, as you observe, I have anticipated them in my June letter to Mr. McClure. To induce the Missionary Directors of the Free Church of Scotland to send out a man, I have written to Dr. Bonar that, so far as I am concerned, I shall resign Victoria—the most important station—in favor of a minister from Scotland, inasmuch as the Presbyterians of this city are chiefly from Scotland. The Presbyterians of New Westminster have come for the most part from Canada, excepting some forty soldiers of the Royal Engineers, who are encamped in that city, and have come from Scotland and the North of Ireland. Should your missionary, as you intimate, be designated to New Westminster, he will find an excellent field, and a goodly band of young men, with a dozen families, who are most likely to give him a cordial reception.

As to the expenses of living, I am of opinion that in addition to adequate support you should allow him £100 or so to build a house. Two sites for churches have been granted to us, one of which—an acre lot—is admirably situated, and would serve at present for a parsonage. As there is not in a city of such recent growth any suitable place available for public worship, and as it would be desirable to have a place of meeting in which the men of the camp might be accommodated, to grant an additional £50 towards the erection of a church, would be a very judicious outlay of funds. The Episcopalians, Wesleyans and Roman Catholics have had grants from their respective societies by which they have been enabled to erect small places of worship; and I sincerely hope that the Presbyterians—who are not rich—may also be encouraged in a similar way. For I apprehend you will agree with me that a good beginning is highly advantageous, and may, in some measure, redeem what has been lost by being late in the field.

As there are a number of Chinese and Indians in all the towns of these Colonies, a missionary may find work enough to exercise his faith and patience and engage all his time and energies. There are one or two interesting cases of Chinamen in New Westminster who regularly attend divine service, and manifest a desire to know more of Christianity; and a number of Indians are daily under the instruction of a French priest. You will be glad to hear that a Methodist missionary from Canada, the son, I believe, of Presbyterian parents, erected with his own hands a school house for the natives last summer on this Island. It is now, I understand, daily thronged by the native tribes, who appear to take great delight in singing lines of Gospel truth, set to simple music. Instead of the yellow flag with crimson cross, they now unfurl as the signal for worship the union jack. So let it be till the idols are utterly abolished and the man of sin, with all his symbols, is supplanted by the spirit of loyalty to Him whose right it is to reign as Lord of all.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOHN HALL.