



ST. MARY'S, CHURCH OF ENGLAND, SOUTH SALTSPRING.

Generations of Alder and Maple have covered the valleys and bottom lands of Saltspring Island with a rich, black, leaf mould overlying a clay subsoil, which yields on cultivation heavy crops of **hay, grain, and roots**. But the higher lands and hill slopes, which nature has clothed chiefly with fir, cedar and balsam, and an undergrowth of the evergreen salal (*gaultheria shallon*) and bracken, have been found by experience to be the best positions for **orchards**, and here, with a careful choice of aspect almost all kinds of fruit peculiar to temperate climates may be grown. Seen from a distance the island appears densely wooded to the mountain tops, but the timber thins as the elevation increases, giving space for grasses and many evergreen and deciduous shrubs. It is on the rocky, wooded heights that **sheep** thrive, secure from beasts of prey, sheltered from rain and wind by some thick branching fir, or basking on a ledge of lichen-covered rock. Here they find food the year round, but the careful shepherd will provide a box of salt and a rack of sweet hay in winter to which the sheep will come when snow threatens or feed is scarce.

Dairying, fruit growing, sheep raising for lamb and mutton, and **poultry keeping** are all carried on with profit, and a ready sale for first class produce is found in Victoria and Nanaimo.