

up some years ago. The amount now available from that source is \$9,500, the total sum of \$18,000 being required for Church and site. Mr. Caie has raised by subscription about \$4,000, and the proceeds of a bazaar amounted to \$2,000. It is intended to have the Church, if possible, opened free of debt, the population including a large number of poor.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The following letters have been received by the Rev. Mr. McDonnell, Fergus, in answer to enquiries regarding the state of the Church in British Columbia. We have no doubt they will be read with interest.

St. Andrew's Church, Victoria,
British Columbia 30th. April 1867.

REV. AND DEAR SIR.—Your letter of the 19th. February has been received by the Rev. Mr. Sommerville, and he has handed it to me, as Secretary of the Church, to answer, he himself being unable, on account of other pressing business, to reply by this mail.

I would therefore offer to you on behalf of the members and adherents of the Church of Scotland in this colony our thanks for the interest evinced by you in the progress of the Church here.

It is a matter of regret that your executive Committee did not carry out the resolution of your Synod of 1862 to establish a mission, as since then no such favourable opportunity has occurred. At that time, as you are no doubt aware, there was a great immigration hither and many Scotch families of good social standing, on arrival, joined the Church of England from the simple reason that there was no Scotch church. If the Church of Scotland in 1862 had built a place of worship it would now have held by far the largest congregation in this city. As it is, our congregation is equal to any other here, notwithstanding that many influential members have been lost to us through the apparent apathy and indecision of the Church. In 1863 the Church sent a missionary here, and in 1864 the General Assembly authorised the best endeavours "by special subscriptions to promote the building of a Church at Victoria" but Mr. Sommerville receiving a call (through the Colonial Committee) from the First Presbyterian Church, and accepting the same, checked those efforts. Now, however, that the Church has again undertaken the mission, the deliverance of the General Assembly above quoted is to be put in force, and I am of the opinion that your Synod should do the same and act upon their resolution of 1862.

I am glad to see that you look upon this as a suitable mission field for the Synod of Canada, and if, as is earnestly hoped by the people here generally, we be admitted ere long into the Confederation, it will then be doubly the province of the Church in Canada to make this a field for missionary operations.

As you remark, one minister is quite inadequate to the task of properly representing the Church in this colony, for besides New Westminster and Cariboo which you name, there are Corvichan and Comox, rising agricultural settlements, and Narra, a mining village of over 500 inhabitants. A great proportion of our colon-

ists are Scotch, and many of them have lived in Canada, and the Eastern Provinces. The Episcopalians have missionaries in nearly all those places I have mentioned. The Church of England and the Church of Rome have both academic Institutions here, and it should certainly be the aim of the Church of Scotland to have something of the same kind. At present we have no public School system, and the youth of the colony are in a measure dependent on those two bodies for their education.

I will not say more: but leave it to Mr. Sommerville more fully and definitely to answer your esteemed letter.

I remain, Rev. and dear Sir,
Your faithful Servant,
JAMES BURNS.

Victoria; British Columbia.
23th April, 1867.

REV. AND DEAR SIR.—I am in receipt of your note of February 19th, and the delay of the steamer over night has unexpectedly given me the opportunity of shortly answering it by this mail. I have received much encouragement by its arrival. It enables me to realise that the eyes of the Church are upon the work in this place, and that having taken a clear and well defined position for the Church of Scotland in this colony, I will not be left single handed and solitary to fight the battle.

You mention that the Synod of Canada at its meeting in 1862 agreed to enter upon the work here, but that the proposal was not carried out. Is it not strange that the General Assembly in Scotland, in May, 1864, passed an act to raise special funds for the building of a church in Victoria, and that through causes accidental, it also has not been taken advantage of till the present. In my opinion, the Synod of Canada could not do better, than just what the Colonial Committee have determined to do—fall back upon its old resolution. The Church at home was led away from its purpose by representations from what was called the First Presbyterian Church in this place, and much time has been lost. The colony was then in a high state of prosperity, and any efforts made, would have been enthusiastically supplemented by the colonists. The colony is now depressed, and enthusiasm has been allowed to cool if not repelled by partial neglect. I believe the tide of adversity has now turned, and it is not too late if a strong effort be made. The Colonial Committee have appointed another missionary, who is now, I believe, on the way out. For some months he takes my place in Victoria, whilst I itinerate to make myself better acquainted with the field. At present I am of opinion that he will assist me in Victoria and preach at Craigflower a district near this, and, where if a Church were built, the Presbyterians in Her Majesty's Fleet, stationed at Esquimalt would also attend.

On this Island there are two other settlements, where the Presbyterians ardently desire and are willing partially to support a minister. First, Corvichan—a large and fertile agricultural district about thirty miles from Victoria, rapidly increasing in population. We ought to have a minister here. If a Church were erected at Maple Bay, there are thirty families within