

the Forks of the Skeena was forestalled by the sending in of an Anglican missionary. That mission, however, after an interval of five years, seems to have failed in effecting any permanent good, and an appeal, most touching in its earnestness, has been sent by the people for a missionary. Such an appeal, under such circumstances, we could not—dared not—refuse; and as no white missionary was available, it was decided to send W. H. Pierce for the present. This is one of the most hopeful openings in the interior that has yet occurred, and is so manifestly providential that Mr. and Mrs. Crosby have volunteered to go, after next Conference, and establish the mission, if the authorities so desire, leaving Port Simpson, and the superintendency of the District as well, in other hands. I sincerely trust the Board will see their way to respond to this new and pressing call.

I venture here to express the opinion that one problem in regard to the Indian work on the Pacific Coast will be solved by the staunch little mission steamer the *Glad Tidings*. The great problem has been how to reach the scattered thousands along the coast, with so few missionaries in the field, and no means of navigating the waters except the native canoe—a method very slow and very dangerous. A remarkable series of providences led to the building of the steam yacht above referred to; and a series of providences, equally wonderful, led to the conversion of the man who built her and is now her engineer. This man was indeed lifted out of “an horrible pit, and the miry clay,” and from the hour of his deliverance his heart has been aflame with love to God and human souls. He thinks (and I quite agree with him) that the *Glad Tidings* should spend a good part of every year in cruising up and down the inlets and among the innumerable islands of the coast, with one or two missionaries on board, who would preach the Gospel to the scattered bands wherever the little vessel could penetrate, and thus convey the good news to multitudes who have not yet heard it. I think also that this man, Oliver, should be recognized in some way as a part of our regular missionary force. His whole soul is in the work, and his flaming zeal and devotion would make him a power for good.

#### IV.—MISSION TO THE CHINESE.

At the present time there are from 8,000 to 10,000 Chinamen in British Columbia, of whom upwards of 3,000 are in the city of Victoria. They are all from the Province of Canton, and all speak the same dialect. The majority belong to the laboring class, but some are merchants, and a few are mechanics. Very few have their families with them, and in some parts of “Chinatown” they swarm together in large numbers, overcrowding the tenements and neglecting sanitary regulations. As a rule, however, they are quiet, peaceable and industrious. Few of them patronize the whiskey saloons; but opium-smoking and gambling are common, especially the latter.

Prejudice against the Chinese is strong and general, but for the