

that they descend to hers, or sink to a grade lower still, clinging, nevertheless, to their miserable bondage with an infatuated perversity that leaves little hope of their ever being reclaimed. Nor does the evil stop here. The iniquities of the fathers are visited upon the children springing from these unhappy unions. For the most part they are left to grow up, so far as moral or religious training is concerned, in total neglect, and, in all that is wicked and vicious, develope, as they advance to maturity, into something more thoroughly depraved than even the heathen themselves.

It is not necessary formally to point out the adverse bearing of such facts as have been adduced on the cause of the Gospel in British Columbia, or the manner in which they operate as hindrances to its advancement. The slightest consideration may suffice to make this apparent. The difficulties to which we have been adverting are such as are found in connection with the missionary work in the Colony, by whatever section of the Church it may be engaged in, each section having to face, besides, its own special difficulties. With respect more particularly to our own branch of the Church, the want in good time of an adequate number of laborers in the field, interruptions of the steady continuity of the work, and uncertainties and disappointments in relation to ministerial supply, have all told against us, and tended to prevent our gaining the position of strength which might otherwise have been attained. The strifes and divisions, moreover, which have unhappily been witnessed among Presbyterians, have added their evil influence.

Of the more general difficulties which have been noticed, some, at least, so far from being such as should lead to the abandonment of the mission, may rather be regarded as reasons for its prosecution with greater earnestness. The expenditure necessary, however, will hardly for the present admit of being very materially lessened. Our mission here, except in the remoteness of the field from that of the parent Church, is not in any proper sense a foreign mission. It is the white population alone with whom it has to do; and only with that portion of the white population, moreover, which remains after deducting the large foreign element. The expenditure, in view of the number directly benefited by it, is undeniably great; yet in a strictly foreign field, if an equal number of heathen were brought under the influence of the Gospel, perhaps a like expenditure might not be deemed excessive. It is certain that other Churches continue to keep up their missions in the Colony, and, it is presumed, at a rate of expenditure not widely different from ours. Such lay-agencies as are made available by our Wesleyan brethren, and also in the Church of England, in the absence of regular ministerial service, would, if we could command them, be eminently useful here. With such assistance, the opening and keeping up of new stations would be comparatively easy, without involving the temporary neglect, and perhaps hazarding the ultimate loss, of those already established. It is, in effect, to such agency, voluntarily undertaken, that we are indebted for still having a congregation in New Westminster, after the long and trying vacancy of the pulpit there.

Our mission in British Columbia, it has been observed, is not properly a foreign mission—in this connection, however, it may just be remarked in passing, how ample a field the Colony offers for a mission to the heathen in its aboriginal tribes alone—immensely outnumbering, as these do, the white population. The Nanaimo Indians themselves amount to about 3,000, including those belonging to this tribe on the mainland as well as those on the island. Each tribe has its own peculiar language or dialect,