

The Rev. A. BROWNING, formerly Missionary to British Columbia, seconded the resolution. He said, though he shrank from the responsibilities of the occasion, and felt himself as a dwarf among giants, yet as he had come 35 miles in the rain to address the meeting, he would improve the opportunity afforded him. He had felt hesitation when invited to speak on so important an occasion, but when he learned that so liberal and ardent a friend of Wesleyan Missions as Mr. Ferrier, was to be in the chair, he felt encouraged to come. Away off on the far Pacific coast, Mr. Ferrier's name was familiar to them as a liberal supporter of their Missions, and they felt encouraged to know that they had such friends at home. He could not stand at this anniversary without recalling the farewell meeting that was held before the departure of the first Missionaries for British Columbia, and the changes that had since taken place. At that meeting were present the genial Dr. Stinson, the devout and earnest Wilkinson, the manly and faithful Spencer, and Dr. Lillie, of the Congregational Church, with brotherly kindness bidding them God speed. All have since passed away from conflict to reward, thereby admonishing us to work while it is day. At that farewell meeting he had said, that they were going out to the western coast to plant Canadian principles upon that soil, and they had faithfully fulfilled that promise. The fact that to-day British Columbia is stretching out her hands for union with Canada, was largely the result of the loyalty and fidelity of the Missionaries, who had laid the foundation of Christian civilization in that country. The vast western country was the hope of Canada. There were ample fields for the overflow of her population, and he hoped to see the day when the east and the west should be joined together in the bonds of Christian brotherhood. It was well that the Wesleyan Church had opened her Mission on the Pacific coast at the time she did. Had it been later many advantages would have been lost. A State Church would have probably been saddled on the country, and the educational and other important interests would have been controlled by Jesuit and Anglican priests. Had they not

gone at that time, the country would have, in all probability, been overrun with anti-British feeling and principles. But especially, had they not gone at that time, they would have irretrievably lost the prestige and influence of having been the pioneers in the great work of claiming the country for Christ. When they went out to that country, they had to begin everything. Nothing was ready to their hand. They went out as Wesleyan Methodist preachers, and that name secured them general respect and regard. The leading men in the colony had treated them with the greatest courtesy and confidence, and did all in their power to promote the success of their work. Col. Moody and other prominent persons, both in civil and military offices, had stood by the Missionaries and encouraged them in the opposition and persecution to which they were exposed, by the fidelity with which they rebuked the selfish forms of ungodliness practiced by so many in that land. Though the miners were naturally wild and desperate, yet when converted they make brave and noble Christian men. Some of them have heroically preserved their purity and integrity, amid all the depraving scenes of vice and wickedness by which they are encircled. They are gentlemen, according to their own standards of propriety; and even men who would not hesitate to shoot down an enemy, generally respect the office of a Christian minister when they believe him to be sincere. Yet it requires a lofty courage to go in among these semi-barbarous classes, and denounce their Sabbath-breaking, gambling, and impurity. They do not like to be interfered with in the prosecution of their unholy schemes. The same was true of the Indians. Yet he (Mr. B.) had felt and proved in his experience that a poor Methodist preacher, if he had the true fire of love in his soul, need not quail before courtly Agrippas, nor rude and treacherous savages. They felt that their sufficiency was of God. In this spirit they went forth—in this spirit they labored—and he rejoiced that their labors had not been in vain in the Lord. The gospel had vindicated its divine adaptation to all classes of that mixed society. Mr. Browning gave several instances of his preaching, amid miners and gamblers—sometimes