

Just as we were finishing the selection of articles for the present Number, the following letter, of very recent date, was received from the Rev. A. E. Russ; and as it embraces an outline of the good work going on amongst the Indians near Nanaimo, and other places accessible to Mr. Crosby's labor, his testimony is valuable and highly encouraging.

VICTORIA, Feb. 10th, 1869.

All is well with us at present, and all the Mission families, as far as I know. The Mission appears to be prospering generally. Bro. Derrick wrote me last week of success and hope. With us here in Victoria there are signs of progress. Each evening is occupied, except Saturday, with prayer-meetings and one class-meeting, in which a deep interest is taken, and souls are being led to God. We have commenced to hold meetings on the Sabbath, at 2 p.m., in a drill-shed, for the especial benefit of the colored people, and which is owned of God, and already made a blessing.

I took the steamer *Enterprise*, a boat of the Hudson's Bay Company, Dec. 17th, for New Westminster, distant from Victoria some 75 miles, to attend the Missionary services, and on the way passed many an evergreen island—the noted San Juan among others. These islands—in the Georgian Gulf—are exceedingly rocky and mountainous, and yet heavily timbered, chiefly with pine—or fir as it is called here—and which is used for fuel and lumber, being about as good as Canadian hemlock, and quite like it. We reached New Westminster about 4 p.m., making the trip in nine hours. At the wharf, as usual, we were met by a rush of citizens of various nations, language, and dress. At present New Westminster, though beautiful for situation, is not adorned either with very extensive buildings or artistic parks, but presents some of the grandest mountain scenery; Mount Baker, with others on the Cascade range, and in the rear of the city. Hard by there are cedar and fir stumps, such as but few cities can boast of,—from 8 ft. to 15 ft. in diameter: a fine chance for “stump” speeches. How is it that such amazingly large trees grow upon a soil said to be so poor? Easterns say that heavy timber is a certain proof of rich soil.

I found Bro. Browning's Circuit in

hopeful prosperity. The congregations on the Sabbath and Monday evening services are very good. The members, by the last minutes, are thirty-five, and will contribute this year—with a little from others—not less than \$175. Such giving is not to be found in the East.

The church premises, including the parsonage, are quite unpretending, but free from debt, which is thought a great virtue,—and so it is. Between going and returning eight days were spent. So you see it is a slight *draft* to visit such an appointment: but I shared in the good hospitality of Sister Holt, Bro. Clarkson, and others.

January 6th.—The steamer *Douglas*, a government boat, left here for Nanaimo, and on it I took passage to attend the Missionary Meetings in that place. The day proved windy, and the sea ran high, particularly off Beacon Hill and Trial Island, where the *Douglas*—though she behaved well—had her bows washed by each successive wave for about an hour. A good Providence soon brought us among the islands, where the sea was calm, and the steward prepared breakfast at 11 a.m., which was refreshing indeed to receive something. After calling to leave the mails, freight, &c., at Maple Bay, Salt Springs, where the cattle on board were thrown into the sea to swim to shore, for there is no wharf,—all natural and primitive. We arrived at Nanaimo about 5 p.m., and found the good chairman, Bro. White, at the wharf, waiting for me. We made straight for his hospitable home, distant say half-a-mile, and found Sister White and children—five in all—in good health and cheerful. The church at this place is neat and commodious, with a comfortable vestry, in which a Sabbath-school is conducted of some 70 scholars. This is large for the membership. The religious state of the Church is good; and the Missionary Meetings were all that could be expected in point of liberality.