

Church of Scotland in British Columbia—these services have been too great not to be highly appreciated alike by the community of Victoria and by the Colonial Committee. It was not without difficulty, therefore, that the Committee reluctantly acquiesced in an arrangement which, with whatever prospective advantage to the mission, deprived it even for a time of Mr. Somerville's personal service in the field. And now that his visit to Scotland has resulted, through the urgency of domestic circumstances, in his accepting a call to the ministry at home, our readers will readily sympathize with the regrets which the Committee feel in being obliged to announce that again the British Columbia mission is in the hands of a solitary labourer, and that at a time when labourers are so exceptionally difficult to find for any field of colonial work.

It is indeed matter of the greatest thankfulness, that in Mr. M'Gregor the Church of Scotland is represented by a minister so entirely worthy of her confidence; and that, meanwhile, till the mission can be again recruited as to the number of its agents, it will lack nothing in Mr. M'Gregor's hands of the energy and zeal, the fidelity and prudence, essential to success.

Soon after his arrival in Vancouver Island, Mr. M'Gregor explored the districts of Cowichan, Saanich, and Matchoson, preaching, and visiting the families in each place. In the district of Cowichan he found about twenty families who still are or were once Presbyterians. For the most part they are just beginning life "in the bush," and struggling with the difficulties which beset new settlers.

Many of them, Mr. M'Gregor writes, have come to the colony with little or no capital, and have a hard struggle to "make ends meet." I preached three times in the district—once near Mr. Lindsay's, again at Maple Bay, and again at Harris's Landing. Knowing the difficulties of their position and circumstances, I did not ask them to contribute in support of the mission. I can testify to their joy at seeing a minister of their own church among them, to the hearty welcome I received from them, and to the earnestness with which they asked that my visit might be repeated. Among the settlers at Cowichan are

several old communicants, who have expressed the earnest wish to commemorate the death of our Lord at least once more, and I trust (D.V.) to be able to dispense the communion among them some time in June.

Farther on, in the same letter, Mr. M'Gregor writes:—

There are many circumstances in connection with this colony which render mission work in British Columbia difficult and somewhat discouraging. First of all, there is in many instances a singular apathy to religious matters. The mining life and wandering habits of the people have tended in too many instances to beget an indifference to all religious observances. A total disregard of the Sabbath and of religious ordinances is frightfully common. I am sorry to say that our countrymen in many instances form no exception to the rule. The Sabbath in many districts is spent frequently in shooting and fishing, or in some equally frivolous amusement, and the sanctity of the day entirely disregarded. Again, out of Victoria the Presbyterian population is small and scattered. The distance to be travelled in order to reach them is so great, and the number who can meet, when the distance is travelled, so small, as to render the work discouraging. . . . It is quite true that in the course of a little time, and as population increases in the country, the attendance must increase, but such is the present state of matters. In the district of Cowichan, Mr. D. Lindsay conducts services every Sabbath in a small house on his own farm, and several of his neighbours attend regularly. In the absence of a missionary in the district, the labours of Mr. Lindsay serve a good purpose, and perhaps, were it possible to secure such an agency more generally in the weaker districts, it would be the best suited of any for the colony in its present infant state.

In a subsequent letter Mr. M'Gregor writes:—

I am thankful to say that church affairs in Victoria are quite as prosperous as we could expect. I think the rupture caused here in reference to the Pandora Street congregation is about healed. Almost all the parties who formerly belonged to that congregation have taken