

## Experiences in Langley

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After the formation of the Presbytery of British Columbia in Victoria on 1st September, 1875, a few days were spent by us in taking in the sights of Victoria and immediate neighborhood. The weather, very warm, yet tempered by gentle sea breezes, favoured out-door life and sight-seeing, so that nearly a whole week was spent in the most pleasing manner in the company of friendly, hospitable fellow countrymen. But the time was passing, and we began to feel that it was time for us to make arrangements for going to our respective posts of duty. First, Rev. Mr. Clyde was introduced to the Presbyterians of Nanaimo. The doors of their church had been closed for six years and the customary services suspended. To them, therefore, the very sight of a Scotch minister and the prospect of stated Sunday services were most welcome. They vied with each other in showing him kindness and in arranging for his accommodation and entertainment. The first Sunday, when Mr. Clyde rose and gave out the 122nd Psalm to be sung, "I joyed when to the house of God" some shed tears.

The Nanaimo introduction over, the members of Presbytery went to Langley to arrange for my settlement there. On the way thither a day was spent in the company of Rev. Robert Jamieson, New Westminster. We found him in a poor state of health. Indeed he was and continued to be more or less an invalid till his death in 1903, though he remained in harness till the last, and continued to do more efficient work than many do who enjoy robust health. Mr. Jamieson was able to accompany us in a walk through the city, pointing out public buildings and the private residences of prominent citizens.

Among others he introduced us to a somewhat eccentric character, who lived alone in a small house near the manse. This man laid claim to superior knowledge and penetration in regard to ministers and all matters ecclesiastical. When the various members of Presbytery had passed in review before this ministerial critic, and had answered satisfactorily the questions which he put to them, he expressed, with old-fashioned dignity, his pleasure in meeting them, and wished them God-speed in their different fields of labour. Afterwards he privately stated to Mr. Jamieson that he considered the new ministers all well fitted for the places which they were to fill except one. "That minister, Dunn," he said, "is too tender and too gentle for this rough new country. Mark my words, Mr. Jamieson, that fighting, brawling Langley crowd will have him out of there and out of the country in three months. I just give him three months." Now, however wise and far-seeing that man may