

From the REV. A. BROWNING, dated New Westminster, Jan. 13th, 1869.

We were cheered much by the arrival so very opportunely of a minister for the Mines. If Bro. Derrick continues as he has begun, he will prove himself eminently fitted for the unique position so honorably assigned him. A distinguishing trait in his character is a right grasp of his work and his relation to it. Not a word of childish squeamishness as to sacrifices, &c., escaped him, but he evidently thought the church had placed honor upon him in sending him to one of the high places at its disposal. And he was right. There are sacrifices in the mission field, but the man who is always talking about them is not always the most ready to endure them. My Circuit extends, that is, the circuit I try to work, 50 miles in one direction, and 72 in another. I have four regular appointments out of the town, and with no local preacher to assist me in the supply of the same find it difficult, and in some senses unsatisfactory work. But God is blessing us; the brethren in town cheerfully do what they can, and throughout the whole extent of the circuit, I find something to cheer and encourage us. At our most distant appointment a rare case of conversion has occurred. An old man of singular natural ability, but sunk to such a depth in the "horrible pit" as to seem to command sinners almost unfathomable, was reached by the hand of sovereign mercy, and almost miraculously delivered. He at once everywhere and to everybody became a preacher of righteousness; and a wonder of grace himself, he does good as much by the evident personal change in his life, as by his fervent and peaceful conversation. Glad was I to hear that he read one of Wesley's sermons to his neighbours on watch-night, and otherwise conduced to their godly edification.

Last night we had at our prayer-meeting a young man from some sixteen miles down the river—(as the other is forty miles up)—seeking mercy; and the hope is engendered in the hearts of

God's people that he will be the first-fruits of the settlement in which he lives—his neighbours being ultimately a people saved of the Lord. At an inlet some nine or ten miles from here, we have good congregations, kind attention, and liberal support; but the influences which attach themselves to saw-mills on this coast, are peculiarly and painfully trying. I have received every countenance and kindness from the proprietors, and respectful attendance from the men; but perhaps was the Gadarene miracle repeated, Gadarene hospitality (?) might follow in its wake. Let the miracle be wrought, O God! for thy sake we can endure as well as rejoice. We have been visited in the past with much favour from on high in our town services. Reviving influences are now descending out of heaven, and the most perfect unanimity and holiest concord exist among us all. The confidence placed in me, the prayers offered for me, the kindly feelings shown me since my coming among this tried, yet faithful people, encourage me to labour, knowing that it shall not be in vain in the Lord.

Our quarterly receipts, ending in November, were the best of the year, and we hope to fully reach our estimated income. Our Missionary Meeting resulted in \$150 financially. Last year it was over \$200, but a \$100 subscriber, Brother Thomas Cunningham, has left for Nanaimo, so that virtually we are in excess of the year preceding. Our Sabbath school anniversary was a success, and notwithstanding the exodus of families the school has slightly increased in numbers. Thus we rejoice, but rejoice with trembling. Victoria is now the capital, with of course its corresponding advantages. This town is, for years to come, prevented from growth; and if experience be any guide, it may decline rather than advance. In view of all this, our mercies greatly abound, and we can confidently commit the future to the God of our past.

From the REV. A. E. RUSS, dated Victoria, Dec. 11th, 1868.

I am thankful to the God of all grace for restoring my health, though I am

yet weak from the effects of the fever, but have a good hope of soon enjoying,