

I have always written very cautiously, and now I am afraid to write the whole truth, lest my readers would not receive it. There is now a certainty that we shall have a large influx of people next year, from Oregon and California, if not from parts more distant. Judging from the past and the nature of the case, we expect that the greater portion will be shrewd, daring, worldly, money-making men, and that there will be a large number of gambling, swearing, Sabbath-breaking, heaven-daring characters, and but very few who fear God and work righteousness.

We shall no doubt have a good many from Canada, few of whom, I fear, will be pious. There is a glorious opening in this country for local preachers, prayer-keepers, &c., to be extensively useful, and at the same time reap, in this life, an *hundred fold*. It is impossible for the few missionaries that are here to be in every place, and if they could, there are some parts of Christ's work that can be done better by laymen than by ministers. All our civil and political institutions are in a state of formation, and it is highly important to give them a right turn in their infancy. Clergymen cannot take a prominent part in politics without injuring their influence as ministers.

Not only do we want wise and pious laymen to aid in building up our political institutions, but we need seasoned and well tried pillars in our church organization, or we shall have feeble and fluctuating societies for many years to come.

I am fully aware that the men we want are useful where they are, and their ministers and friends will naturally impress this fact, together with the privations and difficulties of a pioneer life here at the mines; but I beseech them to be careful lest in this work they should be found "*fighting against Christ*." If I had listened to the voice of such charmers, I should not have been here. We repeat, that for good and wise men who will come here for Christ's sake, and will "*stand up for Jesus*" after they get here, there is an open door, a wide field for usefulness, a rich harvest of this world's goods, and a glorious immortality. Why should the children of this world have all the gold and all the political power, and all the rich land of this fair colony?

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The *Missionary Herald* contains a letter from the Rev. John Hall, dated, Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 30th August. We quote several extracts. We are glad that Mr. Hall will soon have an associate in Mr. Jamieson, who purposes (D.V.) to sail on the 11th current.

"Since I wrote from New Westminster I have travelled over 500 miles through British Columbia, and have preached in all its towns, besides a few settlements. There are two routes to the gold region, one by a chain of lakes, which are crossed in steamboats, and another along the bank of the Frazer river. Proceeding by the lakes, I arrived in Douglas, and after calling upon a few of our people, we arranged for an evening service. The Episcopal minister usually rings the people to church by a dinner bell. As every one has enough to occupy them, and are expected to play their own part, I furnished myself with hammer and nails, and put up notices for evening service. Owing to the presence of the gold escort, and prospectors of a silver company, and the arrival of the steamboat, and the absence of females, of which there are but four in town, our meeting was small, and I had to wait an hour or more before they assembled. The Lord was with us. And I do not remember to have ever felt more the importance of my Mission, nor greater sympathy for lost souls, and more real pleasure in proclaiming a free and present salvation than on that occasion. In that valley of Baca I found a well of living water. In Lilloet, 150 miles to the north-east, I baptised three children, and preached to considerable congregations. There are only three ladies in that town, and they are Presbyterians.

"Returning by Yale, I found in that town a number interested in me, to whom I preached on Sabbath. A few Roman Catholics attended our service, and one or two expressed regret at not being able to be present. In this part of the world people are perhaps too liberal, at all events they are not afraid to attend any place of worship. That the Church of Rome is not changed may be inferred from a fact which was brought under my notice on San Juan Island the other day. A father informed me that the nuns of Victoria had refused to restore to him his daughter whom they had been educating, and that he was about to apply to the powers that be to come to her rescue. Leaving Yale I preached in Hope. There are few Presbyterians in that town. French priests have been rather successful in inducing Indians here to erect houses and abstain from alcohol. Encouraged by success one of the party has