

reading room in Cameron or lower town, which I am to use once a Sabbath, and for the Court-house in Richfield or upper town, which the authorities have placed at my command, and the middle town called Barkerville, is within easy distance of either one or the other. I do not deem it wise to make an attempt at building for ourselves this season, and indeed it is quite uncertain at present, where the body of the population may be next year. Did agricultural advantages form the basis of colonial growth, it would no doubt be more apparent, but mining with its unceasing fluctuations must, for some time to come, give character and settlement to British Columbia. It is no easy matter coming here. It is truly a pilgrimage journey, and an expensive one too. For myself and luggage, I had to pay the oceanic fare of over \$200. Those who are familiar with footing it, can of course manage with much less. Provisions are much cheaper this year than formerly, and yet are quite a "figure." Not less than from thirty to fifty cents carriage is paid on all goods coming in here, the cost of living ranging from eighteen to twenty dollars a week.

Our services on the Sabbath have been favourably attended considering the number who have heretofore shown any regard for the means of grace. But the seductive influence of money-making in the mines and stores, has steeled the hearts even of many quondam church-members from desiring any change of occupation all the week round. The reply I generally get on broaching the subject to them is: "Do you expect us to shut our stores on the day that most business is done?" The miners on the other hand urge the shortness of the season, and the need of being on hand all the time to keep things from going wrong. One of our colonial judges with whom I have conversed on the subject, assures me that, if he can effect it, next mining season the sanctions of the Legislature will come between lawless cupidity and the violation of the sacred day. It is truly a hard matter at all times to deal with those who have no fear of God before their eyes. Were you to pass through any of the small towns in Cariboo on the first day of the week, unless you happened to see some one of the missionaries ringing the bell outside the church door, or a Sinash (Indian) perambulating at the same exercise, you would meet no other indication to remind of the return of the day of rest. We feel much the want of a settled state of society in this country, though I am convinced it is much the same in all new mining fields. On and around William's Creek there is gathered together for nearly six months of the year, a larger population than is to be found in any other district or town of British Columbia. Yet it is impossible to predict how long this order of things may continue as other mining fields are coming into notice and attracting hundreds from this quarter. On this account it is incumbent on the messenger of the gospel in this field of labour to be in a great measure an itinerant, and to follow with his Bible and his message the dispersing crowds, who wander up and down chasing the signs and symptoms of material good all over the land, crying lo here and lo there.

Acting on and with the advice of the brethren of New Westminster and Victoria, I purpose, as noted in my last, to prolong my stay in the Upper Country through the winter, and will so far meet the reproach which finds vent about the mines, and has arisen from the leaving of the ministers labouring here in the summer at the close of the mining season, for the more congenial winter of the lower country, and which amounts to this, "that in following the good weather, we study too much our own convenience." It is not at all unlikely at the same time, that some who find fault with the absence of the missionary during the winter, will themselves be found missing when service is announced. Against a lengthened stay in this upper country, there are hygienic reasons, which must be considered. The great altitude here attained, over 4000 feet above sea level, gives a very rarified atmosphere, and seriously affects weak lungs: the want of vegetable diet one-half of the year, or nearly so, tells upon the bodily health, and is oftentimes productive of serious disorder. Just yes-