

W. Cotton, Esq.; G. Thomson, Esq.; J. Boodle, Esq.; and many other clergymen and gentlemen of note and influence.

The Rev. J. V. ПОВАН, Minor Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, having opened the meeting with prayer,

The LORD MAYOR rose, and was loudly applauded. He said,—My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I feel it a great privilege of office, as well as a personal honour to myself, that I should be called on to fill the chair on this occasion. I was indeed delighted to find that the wealthiest, the greatest, and the most noble in the City of London as merchants, bankers, and others, signed a requisition to me on this important matter; and I was delighted to have the opportunity of acting upon that requisition. (Hear, hear.) I feel indeed that the mission about to go forth to British Columbia is a mission to which we must all wish God speed. Indeed, the circumstances are of a most extraordinary nature. That a place which but a few years since was so little known, possessing an annual revenue scarcely exceeding 400*l.*, should have so rapidly risen in position and importance, as to demand from the mother country that which it is the happiness and the pleasure of the mother country to afford,—an ecclesiastical establishment, a bishop, to attend to its spiritual wants, is indeed most wonderful! I am delighted to see that the meeting is so large. And I am gratified to feel that the worthy bishop, whose departure takes place, I believe, to-morrow, will leave his native land with thankfulness and praise, as also with pleasure to himself; that, when he arrives at the home of his adoption, as I sincerely hope he may, in the full enjoyment of health and vigour, he will have a pleasing recollection of the last twenty-four hours he spends in England. (Applause.) The mission to Columbia is of great value and importance, chiefly because it is rapidly becoming the home of people of our own race and from our own shores; and I am sure that the future prosperity of the colony must be materially advanced by the steady growth there of the Christian Protestant religion. (Hear, hear.) We have in the Rev. Dr. Hills, who is now