

# HAGAGA.

"Ze gaydishim lth azep'lth Am laut; dum zini laut, ni dum gi ama-daluges Jehorah."

PSALM cxviii 19.

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AIYANSH, NASS RIVER, B.C.

## NOTES & COMMENTS.

OWING to enforced absence from home during the months of July and August I have not been able to issue the HAGAGA for that period. With the present September number, however, I hope, D.V., to begin an uninterrupted series of some length.

A LOVER of fine scenery makes inquiries as to the possibility and desirability of extending an excursion from VICTORIA up the Skeena, as a change from, or an addition to the usual ALASKAN TOUR.

I have never been up the Skeena, but if the scenery of that river at all resembles that of the Nass there can be no question about the desirability. There is nothing on the C.P.R. to excel our northern river scenery.

Travelling by canoe is of course out of the question, but there lies a splendid possibility in the H.B.Co's steamer CALEDONIA which, if lengthened a little, would afford ample accommodation for a limited number of tourists, besides improving the freight capacity of the vessel and lessening her draught. The trip to Skeena Forks occupies three days in going, and one in returning; but the Nass could be done in half that time.

A more delightful change from the monotony of coast travelling cannot well be imagined than that of ploughing the rushing waters of some picturesque canon; forging through the roaring torrent of the rapids; breasting the musical ripple of the shallows; putting out a towing line and winching ahead; or backing down some foaming, whirling abyss. Immediately around one the mountains tower up to heaven ruggedly grand, displaying a profusion of bluish glaciers, hoary peaks, mossy scarps rich in every shade of brown and green, weather-worn battlements, sparkling cascades, and fir-clad slopes: while in the distance other eternal hills are etherealised in the clearest of heavenly blue. Yes, a trip up the Skeena or the Nass would be charming.

ROBERTSON says that, "Mountains are the beginning and the end of all natural scenery."

THE first CALEDONIA Diocesan Conference was held at Metlakatlah on Wednesday July 16th and two following days, presided over by the Bishop of the diocese. Some very helpful and interesting papers were read on subjects connected with the work. The importance of a gathering such as this lies chiefly in the opportunity it affords the clergy of exchanging views, and comparing notes on the various phases of development in their work, as well as providing them with a season of spiritual refreshing, from which they return to their labours strengthened and encouraged. In another column will be found a short report of the proceedings.

PORT SIMPSON is to be congratulated on its approaching acquisition of an English church. I have seen the plans, and viewed the site, and am quite convinced that, in the hands of Mr. Geo. Williscroft, who has the contract, the Port Simpson church will be made a shapely and substantial edifice. In Rev. Temple Pyemont our neighbours have found a pastor full of quiet energy and warm spiritual sympathy, whose return to the "old country" next spring will be regarded by them with unfeigned regret. Doubtless the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, whose province it is to minister to infant colonial communities such as this, will appoint a suitable man to take up the work where Mr. Pyemont lays it down.

EVERY advance at Port Simpson is worthy of notice; for, given the growth of the Province (and that is assured), there is certainly a future before it. It may indeed turn out to have a peculiar advantage over other more aspiring townships of BRITISH COLUMBIA; for if the contemplated railway from the STATES to ALASKA be carried through B.C., there will no doubt be extended a branch line from the region of Stewart's Lake *via* Hazelton to Simpson. The geographical position and natural endowment of Port Simpson are sufficient warrant for this assumption. Adm'l Seymour and other eminent authorities consider it to have *the best harbor*

*in the world*, needing only the erection of a breakwater (a lighthouse would do) on the reef at the western entrance to make it perfect. Moreover it is 1,100 miles nearer CHINA than any port of commerce further south: vessels leaving San Francisco for that country usually seek to sight the Aleutian Islands, off Simpson, before starting out across the Pacific!

The latest addition to the missionary staff of this diocese is the Rev. W. Hogan who arrived here in June last, to whom with Mrs. Hogan we extend a most hearty welcome. Long may they remain! Though last in the field Mr. Hogan is by no means the least, for he is over 6 ft. 2 in. in height, and of the right grit for this country. He pulled a large ship's boat single-handed from Kincolth to Simpson, a distance of 35 miles, in 18 hours, in bad weather, with only one rest for a meal on the way. This meal was I believe cooked in the boat under difficulties occasioned by stress of weather, and it is commonly reported that the porridge was stirred with an umbrella. The porridge was no doubt taken *cum grano salis*, but friends had better take the umbrella *cum bona venia*.

The Rev. R. W. & Mrs. Gurd have proceeded to England on furlough. Before leaving they received, I am told, a very gratifying expression (in the shape of an illuminated address and purse containing 300 dols.) of the esteem in which they are held by the residents of CLAXTON on the Skeena, where Mr. Gurd has just completed the erection of a very pretty church.

HEATHENISM dies hard! It is truly wonderful with what tenacity our Christian Indians hold on to the old heathen custom of feasting, a custom which is bound to ruin all those who retain it. Nobody would object to a feast in moderation, but to go in for inviting the tribes of a district *en masse* is vanity and folly, while the flattery dished up thereat so demoralises the recipients of it as to render them incapable of appreciating the principle of self-denial insisted upon in the Gospel. Every true friend of the Indians should discourage these feasts.