

As soon as the frosts and snow begin to appear the great body of the miners take their flight, like birds of passage, to escape the severity of northern cold, and to enjoy the milder and more tolerable climate of the south-western coast. Both Victoria and New Westminster then assume a busy aspect, consequent upon this stated but 'temporary influx of population.

Yet there are not a few who remain all the year in the mining region, while the increase of accommodation year by year, together with the great expense of the journey southward to the better abodes of civilization and comfort, causes a growing addition to the number of those who abide all the winter in the vicinity of the mines. In view of the fact now stated, of an increasing population during winter in Cariboo, it has been deemed prudent by the other brethren here, as well as by myself, that I might be well employed there, and more especially, because hitherto no missionary has remained over the winter to attend to the spiritual oversight of several hundreds of souls.

I therefore leave New Westminster to-day for the mines, a distance of about 500 miles, and if by divine favour my journey is prosperous I hope to reach this field of labour about a month before the retrocedent movement of the coming fall has begun. There are several missionaries belonging to other denominations now at work among the miners, who I understand are expected to return to the towns nearer the seaboard for the winter.

My next communication to you will likely be from Cariboo, providing the stampede from that quarter is not much greater than is now anticipated, necessitating a change on my part also.

Your favour to Mr. Jamieson, with note enclosed to me was received last evening, making us acquainted with matters engaging the late meeting of Synod.

With kindest regards to you and yours, I remain with esteem yours,

D. DUFF.

LETTER FROM REV. D. DUFF.

NEW WESTMINSTER, 28th July, 1864.

REV. MR. BURNS.

MY DEAR SIR.—I wrote to you on reaching San Francisco, where I had to wait eight days for the steamer to the north. An opportunity was thus afforded me of seeing the city, which is the wonder and chief attraction on the coast of the Pacific. The demonstration which was then made on the 4th of July was such as one is not likely soon to forget. 'Our government'—'Our union'—'Our principles'—'Our flag'—'The excelsior of the western continent,' and consequently of the eastern and every other, were the sentiments read, spoken, and published in a thousand ways throughout the rejoicing on that great historic anniversary. The Apostle's prudent and practical admonition, "let your moderation be known to all men," seemed to be taken with some exception when applied to love of country. I was thus favoured with some insight into the institutions of our American neighbours, and was at least taught that they who are really sound and sincere in their profession of loyalty to king and country, must not fear when occasion requires boldly to avow it. It was my privilege also to get acquainted with several ministerial brethren in San Francisco, whom I found not wanting in the exercise of those charities which a stranger is likely to desire. As I had to spend a Sabbath here an invitation was kindly given me to preach in one of the Presbyterian churches, with which I was willing to comply.

On the 7th July the steamer for which I was waiting sailed for Vancouver via the Columbia river and Portland (Oregon); and on the 13th, seven weeks from my leaving New York, I landed at Victoria, the chief city of the island now referred to. I at once proceeded to a hotel with my luggage, and had only been there a short time when I was visited by the Rev. Mr. Hall and Mr. Wright,