

reveal their "deepest deeps," and supply a perfect mirror to the wooded acclivities around, and to the azure sky and every flitting cloud above.

In the Georgian Strait the tides in their ebbing and flowing are marked by great irregularities, and in the confined channels between the islands give rise to rapid currents. Shortly after passing through one of the narrowest of these channels, where the current is often extremely powerful—called the Dodd Narrows—the steamer comes in view of Nanaimo, the vicinity of which is commonly indicated by a cloud of smoke from its engine fires some time before. The town is situated at the head of a spacious bay, facing to the northward, but presenting that lake-like appearance which has already been adverted to, being nearly inclosed by a long narrow projection of Vancouver Island, by the large island of Gabriola, and by Protection and Newcastle islands, of much smaller size. It is thus thoroughly sheltered from the windy storm and tempest, and its waters are but slightly ruffled when through the openings between the islands the white-capped waves may be descried tossing in the Gulf without.

As beheld from the bay, at a little distance off, the town of Nanaimo appears spread irregularly over a wooded acclivity, rising by a gradual ascent directly from shore, and from behind which Mount Benson lifts its rugged head, towering to an elevation of from 4000 to 5000 feet. Nearer observation considerably modifies this first impression of the situation of the town. The apparent slope exhibits such an extraordinary distribution of land and water as no mere verbal description could avail intelligibly to represent; and the chief part of the town is found to stand on a sort of promontory which was evidently once an island, and which is separated from the other part by a deep rocky ravine.

The population of Nanaimo—a number of Chinamen being included—amounts to about 400 individuals. This population is dependent for its support mainly on the coal mining operations, which have been conducted by the Vancouver Company for quite a number of years, and latterly at least with considerable financial success. Small as the town is, it has no fewer than three places of worship—one Church of England, the minister of which is reported as about to betake himself to another field; one Wesleyan, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. White, the Chairman of this District; and one Canada Presbyterian. Our congregation here was organized by the Rev. R. Jamieson towards the close of the year 1865, when the population was larger by some 200 persons than it now is. Mr. Jamieson's labors in connection with the congregation of which he was the founder were continued, always with much acceptance, to the commencement of the present year, and his removal then, in subservience to the general interests of the mission, to New Westminster, was matter of universal regret. For a considerable period, during the term of his ministry here, he was left the sole representative of our Church in the Colony—a position the discouraging influence of which can in some measure be realized by one who has felt how difficult it is to bear up under the depression which is apt to seize on the mind of the evangelist in this remote Colony, even under the most favorable circumstances. Our place of worship in Nanaimo, which was erected soon after the congregation was organized, is a handsome and commodious building, not large, but sufficiently so for the present requirements of the population, to which, however, there may at any time be—sooner or later, it can hardly be doubted, there must be—large additions, from the extension of the coal-mining operations either by the existing company or by some others.