

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. E. Robson, dated Nanaimo, V. I.
December 2nd, 1861.*

Quite a number of our former hearers have left the place, as will always be the case in this country; but their places are in some instances filled by new-comers. It is pleasing to state that our church is often frequented by officers and men belonging to H.B.M. navy, and also by captains and men from the merchant ships which frequent our port. Several of the captains have been Methodists in other countries, and some of them express their heartfelt gratitude that in this far-off land they have the privilege of hearing the same kind of preaching that they used to hear in their fatherlands. The time before the last that I preached in this place there was present the captain of a barque who had not been inside a church for nine years. His parents and friends were Methodists. I cannot help believing that the seed thus "cast upon the water" will "return after many days." Good impressions have been made and resolutions formed, and it is to be hoped that God, who alone can give the increase, will bless our efforts.

At Salt Spring Islands, our monthly visits are generally times of encouragement. The people come out from every corner of the little settlement, and devour every word with an eagerness which evinces something more than curiosity. Indeed good has already been done there and evil prevented. We have good hopes of the appointment, and are determined to keep it up though it sometimes is difficult to reach it, as the only communication is by water. One week ago in visiting the Island, I had to spend three days on the water, and sleep one night on the shore without a tent; another night in an Indian hut. I got lost on the middle of the Island while

crossing from one side to the other, and had a narrow escape from drowning while out in my canoe. This but illustrates the character of our work on this coast.

Our Sunday School at Nanaimo contains 27 scholars and 5 teachers. The inducements offered in the Episcopal School have drawn some from ours, but upon the whole, the School is in a prosperous condition. Our annual festival was held on the 12th ult. We had a good tea for the parents, children and teachers, music on the melodeon, examination, &c.

The Indian school has been suspended for some time, as the Indians have been away fishing, and digging potatoes, &c. They have now returned, and I hope to re-open in a few days. I have preached to the Indians frequently in the house erected for that purpose, and have also visited them at their lodges, and endeavoured to instruct and lead them to the Saviour. Sometimes in this department of my work, I have had considerable encouragements, and again have been disappointed by the return to drunkenness of those concerning whom I had bright hopes. The poor Indians are tempted on every hand to drink the "fire water."

There have been some difficulties in the little class since I last wrote which have resulted in lessening it. Those who differed from us and let have shown by subsequent conduct that they were not worthy the place they occupied, and still remain away from all means of grace. The decrease in the number of members has made considerable difference in the funds of the circuit. I hope that these evil will be healed, and that God will add to our number "of such as are saved."