

often done before—ran ahead for the sake of health and circulation of the blood. But here the road forks, the most direct leading to *Big Bend*, and not seeing the other road I went on towards *Big Bend* for some distance; meanwhile the stage came up and turned off for Cariboo, and I was left behind. So it proved not only a *bend* but a *break* in my journey. I had to wait at Bonaparte for the next stage, which, owing to fogs, &c., did not come up for two weeks; but a good God orders or controls all such things. I was kindly, most kindly treated, and on Sunday preached in the hotel to a most attentive congregation, and they gave me a collection of \$15; and I shall never forget the emotion with which a strong man came up to me and said, "Thank you, sir; this is the first sermon ever preached here. I have not heard a sermon before for five years." May the seed sown by the way-side be blessed of the Lord! Here the news of the burning of Barkerville, Cariboo, reached me by telegram. This delay gave me an opportunity of preaching at Bonaparte Junction and Quesnel Mouth, and of forming many acquaintances by the way.

WELCOME RECEPTION—COMMENCEMENT
OF LABOUR—ERECTION OF CHURCH
AND PARSONAGE—AND PROGRESS.

I am now in Barkerville, where I arrived on the 7th of October—Brothers Sparrow and Holt meeting me. They had secured me a bed in Richfield, a mile further up the creek from Barkerville, but almost like a continuation of it. We next visited the ruins of Barkerville, and I was introduced to many friends of Methodism. The next Saturday, in concert with these beloved brethren, it was agreed to put up a house for God. I inquired about our Church built under the direction of Drs. Evans and Taylor, in 1863, if it was fit to preach in; but found that it had so entirely disappeared, that we could scarcely mark the spot where it stood. When partly wrecked some Chinamen took possession of it. Next the roof fell in, thus dislodging the Celestials; and then those who wanted fuel and lumber helped themselves, till not a vestige of the Church remained.

This was a dark state of things. The people's workshop in the street, and one grand struggle to get houses for shelter before winter. Lumber selling at \$125 per 1000 feet. But our whole-souled friends set to work, and the third day after my arrival (October 10) a subscription list was opened, and in a few minutes \$250 were subscribed. The next day I preached in the upper end of Barkerville, in what is called China Town. The place of the first sermon was a shell of a building, in course of fitting up for a cow stable. It was without windows or doors; but we must begin. Blankets took the place of windows and doors, and the house was well filled with an earnest congregation; and here for three Sabbaths we worshipped God. In the mean time our church progresses. On the third Sabbath the stalls were up in the stable and the congregation filled the stalls; the next day seven cows, the sacred number, came in. I thought of Bethlehem and the stable, and thanked God, for the sacred spot had been full at each service. On the fourth Sabbath we occupied the shell of our new church without battens, or windows, or door, but drapery hung up in stead, and here we have continued to worship, but not with the building in the same state. Every week showed progress; and at the end of eight weeks from the opening service it was finished, with the exception of a few internal fixings. We have also built a *parsonage* at the back of the Church, facing the east. The Church fronts on another street. My rooms, indeed, are under the rear of the Church, but above ground, and they have good ventilation. The Church is 30×20, with 14 feet ceiling of dressed pine lumber, and battened, and has a double floor. It has six windows, a good set of dressed pine seats, with comfortable backs, a good stove and pipes of Russian iron, a raised communion and platform, carpeted, and furnished with a respectable table and chair; four lamps, a candlestick, and a set of communion vessels.

The minister's house has three rooms, viz., bed-room, sitting-room, and kitchen. Furniture: three pine tables, two chairs, an excellent lounge, a pine bed-