

visions of glory seemed to pass before him. His right arm was raised by Diarmaid : with this, although speechless, he gave the last sign of blessing ; then he ceased to breathe. The monks bore the body to his own hut. Three days and nights they "waked" for him, and then, wrapt in clean linen, he was laid in his tomb. It is said that years afterwards his bones were exhumed and laid beside those of St. Bridget and St. Patrick by the monastery of Downpatrick, in his native land. But Iona still claims his memory, if not his dust. During all the intervening centuries, his shrine has been the resort of pilgrims from all countries, and the saying of Dr. Johnson, uttered a hundred years ago, has become the verdict of Christendom : "That man is little to be envied whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona." In later times, Iona became a famous seat of learning, from which went forth missionaries to all parts of Britain and far beyond its bounds. The monks of the order became known as the Culdees, and were early established at Abernethy, which became the ecclesiastical centre for the Pietish kingdom. St. Andrews, Dunkeld, Dumblane, Brechin, and other important bishoprics were founded by them, all owning the supremacy of Iona. In the ninth century the Danes so completely destroyed the monks and their monastery that even Iona itself disappeared from history. The oldest of the ruins that one now sees there, St. Odhrain's, or as it is called, "St. Oran's" chapel, was probably built by Queen Margaret very nearly five hundred years after the death of Columba.

British Columbia.

LETTER FROM REV. DONALD FRASER.

Victoria, Dec. 30th, 1885.

NEW YEAR'S greetings to the *Record* from the far west ! Would you not like to know what kind of weather we are enjoying during the holiday season ? We have soft balmy weather, such as I have often seen in the east about the first of May. We have had only two or three frosty nights this winter. This is a most unsatisfactory climate for lazy church-goers. I do not remember more than two or three Sabbaths during the last twelve months, which, as far as weather was concerned, could fur-

nish anything like a decent excuse for stopping at home. With ourselves, in Victoria, the past year has been one of steady growth. We have had precious tokens of the Master's favour. We are now enlarging the session and preparing for more systematic work during the coming year.

Acting on the advice of Dr. MacSwain of this city, Rev. J. S. Mackay has gone to spend the winter in Southern California. Mr. Mackay is one of those devoted men who are so absorbed in their work as to be oblivious of self ; so, before he was aware, he was badly run down. I ask the prayers of the whole church for his speedy restoration. One of the great draw-backs of this province has been a weak Presbyterianism, and even to-day we have only eight ministers, all told, between the Pacific and the Rockies. We shall need five more men in the spring. This is a critical period in the history of British Columbia. Splendid opportunities present themselves to our church. Are we to lay hold of them ? The mission work done in Manitoba and the North-West has been a blessing to the whole church. Should we not aim at obtaining increased blessing by doing similar work here ? I think a most determined effort should be made during the coming year to put our work in this province on something like a proper and adequate basis. I know that this will involve sacrifice, but I know that the object is *worth* a sacrifice, and I know that the great need of B. C. to-day is the Gospel. Without Gospel or ordinances people in this western world very soon grow careless, and are lost, not only to the church, but to Christianity. We ought to learn a lesson from our Methodist brethren. The Presbyterians of this province are, I believe, considerably more numerous than the Methodists, but while we have eight ministers, they have thirteen doing work among white people, besides seven Indian missionaries, one Chinese missionary, and quite a number of mission teachers. We need not only missionaries, we need a Presbytery. We need union. Our present divisions are a serious reflection on Presbyterian common sense. D. F.

The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has resolved on \$1,000,000 as their missionary work for the coming year—of which \$439,796 go to foreign missions.