

and who, although absent from Scotland fifteen years, works with enthusiastic zeal in the service of the Church.

After the usual preliminary steps I ordained four elders on the 11th June. This was the first ordination of any kind in the island; the Church was densely crowded, and we were all solemnly impressed by such services away so far from our native land. As there is no other Presbyterian minister within one hundred miles of me, I acted alone in the ordination.

Our usual services are a morning and evening service on Sabbaths, and a prayer meeting on Thursday evenings. In the latter, the elders officiate with myself, and usually one or two of the members are called upon to take part. Thus in all things we endeavour to be as much like home as possible. A hundred people usually attend.

We have opened a new station at Craighower, a few miles from Victoria, where I preach every alternate Sabbath to a congregation of forty. We are organizing a Sabbath school, and, were times more prosperous, would build a small chapel. In this district Kenneth McKenzie, Esq., formerly of the parish of Morham, has great influence, and from him we expect valuable assistance.

Our Sabbath school in connection with the church has made rapid progress. We have an average attendance of ninety. In conducting the school I have the assistance of fourteen earnest teachers.

Occasionally I ride out to the interior settlements, visit and collect the farmers together when divine service is conducted. Many are so far from the town that this is the only opportunity they can have for public worship.

In addition to these duties, I have been elected chaplain to the Volunteers and chaplain to the St. Andrew's Society. In this capacity I preached last Sabbath to the Volunteers, when 63 attended in uniform, and about 500 others. Thus you will perceive that, although so far from home, we preserve the institutions of the "old country." Indeed, when looking upon the congregation assembled, one can scarcely realize that we are 8500 miles from Edinburgh. Scotch faces and Scotch names abound among us.

The city has a population of 6000; out of these, 2000 only are church-goers. Many of the others, feeling themselves free from the restraints of home, are exceedingly careless, so that much remains to be done. The restlessness of spirit, fostered by the gold excitements of the North Pacific coast, is sadly adverse to the interests of sound religion, but in this respect society is rapidly improving.

Our town is the world on a small scale. There is every variety of character and nationality in our population. We have the Jews' quarter and the Chinese quarter, and upon our streets there assemble the American, Englishman, Swede, Dane, German and

Italian. Opposite our church there is the synagogue. Within a stone-cast there are 20 tents of newly arrived "Celestials;" and not farther than 300 yards there is the Indian Reserve, where the aboriginal lords of the soil, squat in their "rancheries." At our service on Sabbath evenings I have frequently observed, standing together near the entrance, the Chinaman from the farthest east and the red-faced warrior of the west. So few are the clergymen here that we are not able to do anything for either of these classes. I wish some liberal member of the church could forward to me a few Chinese Bibles, as those from that country here are generally careful, intelligent and teachable.

Within these last few days we have had accounts of the discovery of a new gold field on the Sound of Clayoquet, in this island. If they prove as profitable as represented, we may expect many additions to our already overstocked population.

THOS. SOMERVILLE.

Victoria, Aug. 16, 1865.

Orphanages in England.

Many of our readers know the story of the Orphanages at Bristol, under Mr Geo. Muller's care. For some years Mr. Muller had been a minister in Bristol, and felt it to be his duty to receive no stated sum as stipend, but only such free-will offerings as might be contributed for that purpose in a missionary box at the entrance of his church. Being touched by the condition of many of the poor children at Bristol, he desired to found an Orphanage for them; and acting under the same views of duty as had previously guided him, he resolved not to ask subscriptions from any one, but to depend entirely on the results of prayer. He believed that, if thus earnestly and patiently he prayed to God, enough would be sent him, without any solicitation, to found and to sustain his Orphanage. His plan was made known to the members of his congregation, who were requested to join him in their prayers, and a prayer meeting was held twice a week for this purpose. That was in November 1836. On the 7th December thereafter, one shilling was sent him, two days afterwards a piece of furniture, and a Christian woman offered her services as matron. In twelve months, without begging from any one, the sum of £770 had been received. Before the second annual report had been published (the report being simply a daily mentioning the sums received each day) the sum of £1000 had been obtained to build suitable premises, besides what was necessary for the support of the orphans. The work has gone on enlarging every year since, and the donations increasing, still under the same principle of asking nothing except from God. Probably no society ever received such small gifts, and few ever received larger. A few