

From Yale, I proceeded onward per the Cariboo Express, which means a double team spring waggon, adapted to the carriage of passengers and light parcels; and from terminus to terminus makes no unnecessary delay. Leaving there on Monday, 3 A. M., the wheels were kept in motion to a late hour on Wednesday afternoon, allowing a few minutes for a relay of horses, every ten or twelve miles until reaching Soda Creek, where we have again to change the means of transit. This part of the journey, performed by stage, comprises a distance of 260 miles, and furnishes opportunity to witness both the romantic grandeur of nature, and the wonderful achievements of human effort. Lytton is a small settlement 70 miles from Yale, at the junction of the Thompson river with the Frazer, in the vicinity of which are a few acres of land under cultivation. The waggon road thus far, is along the banks of the Frazer, and has in several places been made round a rocky bluff by blasting, and the Canyons of great depth, so that on one side of the fifteen to eighteen feet driving space thus cut out, we may have the perpendicular rocks rising to a great height, and on the other without a wall or protection as steep a descent, varying from fifty to a thousand feet. About twenty miles from Lytton the Thompson river is crossed by a ferry, after which the road strikes into a more open country, losing sight of both the rivers mentioned, until we reach the port of navigation for the Upper Frazer, at Soda Creek. I may only note in passing, how very inconsiderable is the portion of land under cultivation throughout this great extent of country, and though comparatively level tracts of apparently good soil are to be met with, yet the want of rain, the killing frost, and the presence of alkaline matter, all combine to make ranching here, rather an uninviting because uncertain and trying means of subsistence. Did the farming capabilities of this broad expanse present better encouragements, agriculture, instead of being attended to by a few, would no doubt engage the interest and energy of thousands more who are willing at any time to leave the adventurous pursuit to others of seeking their wealth in the gulch and gorge, the rock and river.

The present waggon communication, as already stated, terminates at Soda Creek, where a few houses have been put up for the accommodation of travelers, and from this a steamer leaves for the small town of Queenelle mouth, 70 miles up the river two or three times a week, as business requires. The time taken in going up the river is seldom less than 24 hours, while the down trip, on account of the rapids, occupies between three and four hours. At the place last named, I made a stay of some weeks, and found a few who were willing and anxious to take advantage of the means of grace. There is here a somewhat stationary population of about 100, comprising about 40 of British nationality, the rest made up of foreigners from all quarters, though to include the native Indians, packers of mule trains camped around, and vagrant gamblers, it might be stated at double that number. Here I endeavoured to sow the seeds of the living Word, by private conference, by tract distribution, and public addresses, and had from time to time an audience of from ten to thirty of very varied elements indeed, including a number of Jews and gamblers. Our meetings were held in an empty store-house, there being no building answering the demands of a church, yet erected. It is not at all likely that you will be for the first time apprized by me that the saloon and gambling table are in this lottery land of gold and speculation of every kind but too popular "institutions," and that not a few of those who are foolishly squandering time money and reputation, at the shrine of lust, were once known and respected for better parts.

A few small patches of land in the vicinity, with the aid of irrigation, have been brought into cultivation, yet the whole amount of indigenous products realized here and elsewhere, is not to be viewed as more than a tithe of what is required to support the population of the colony.