

sibility, at least sharing it more largely. In the spring of 1884 the late Rev. J. S. Mackay was called to the pastorate of St. Andrew's church, New Westminster, where he continued to labour with much faithfulness and success until compelled by failing health, in the autumn of 1885, to seek change of climate and rest in Southern California. After spending the winter there he returned to his home in the county of Oxford, Ont., where his short but fruitful ministry was closed by death a few months afterwards. During Mr. Mackay's absence and the ensuing vacancy, the pulpit was supplied by the Rev. J. S. Taylor, of Moose Jaw, N.W.T., for about four months; by Mr. Jamieson and by neighbouring and visiting ministers until the fall of 1886, when the congregation, by a unanimous and hearty call, secured for pastor the Rev. Thos. Scouler, of Erskine church, Hamilton. Mr. Scouler's induction took place in January, 1887. During the vacancy the congregation erected a handsome and comfortable manse, which was ready for use on the arrival of their new minister. At the same time the congregation became self-sustaining, paying a stipend of \$1,500 besides a retiring allowance annually of \$350 to Mr. Jamieson. Early in the spring of 1887, the congregation began the erection of a handsome and commodious brick church, at a cost of about \$15,000, which was opened for divine service last February. This without doubt is the best church edifice on the mainland of British Columbia—if not the best in the Province.

On the application of the congregation of the First Presbyterian church, Victoria, and by the appointment of the Home Mission Committee, the Rev. Donald Fraser, M.A., of Mount Forest, Ont., was inducted by the Presbytery of Toronto to the pastoral charge of the congregation, arriving in Victoria in August, 1884. A somewhat checkered history, including a long vacancy, frequent changes, the absence of presbyterial oversight, together with a serious loss by fire, had the usual effect upon the congregation. Mr. Fraser's energetic labours and other favouring conditions, however, brought the congregation up to a self-sustaining position, paying a stipend of \$1,800 within eight months.

The congregation is now in a prosperous state, a strong centre of religious influence in the city, and contributing liberally to the schemes of the church, and has removed a debt of about \$4,000 on the church property during Mr. Fraser's pastorate,

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