

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ECCLESIASTICAL LIBERALITY.—Christ Church (Episcopal) Victoria, Vancouver Island, was entirely destroyed by fire on the evening of first October. It was the oldest church in the colony, and had stood up as a prominent landmark since 1856. The fire commenced under the wall of the chancel on the northern side, made its way up between the outside boards and the plaster, and burst on the roof about 9 p. m. The brilliancy of the conflagration lighted up the waters of the Puget Sound. Although several thousand people assembled, it was impossible to save the building.

The Roman Catholic priest was the first to discover the flame and sound the alarm, and when the flames were raging, the office-bearers of the Scottish Presbyterian Church stepped forward and invited the Dean (the Bishop being absent in England) to conduct his service in their capacious and beautiful building. The offer was cordially accepted, and thus, to the people of Victoria, the novel sight has been presented of Episcopal Ordinances being regularly dispensed in a Presbyterian Church.

We trust that the day will soon come when Presbyterian Ordinances may also be occasionally dispensed in an Episcopal Church.

T. SOMERVILLE.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH.

Arrivals.—We are happy to notice the return to his native land, of the Rev. Robert J. Cameron, of New Glasgow. Mr. Cameron, after taking a number of sessions in the Truro Seminary, entered the University of Glasgow during the session of 1862–3, and, after completing a full course of Arts and Theology, was licensed and ordained by the Presbytery of Glasgow. Mr. Cameron was a man of mark during his College days. Not only does his name occur in the list of prizes, but other honours were conferred upon him; and among them we would notice the fact that his fellow Divinity Students chose him as their agent in that district of the city mission in the city of Glasgow occupied and wrought by them. His success in this field of labour was manifested in the parting gifts presented by those poor people to whom he ministered, on his departure from their midst. Thus trained and thus prepared, Mr. Cameron has returned to take the appointment of interim assistant to Dr. Donald of St. John, and Missionary to Rothesay. We congratulate the young Minister on receiving so important a sphere of labour, and we also congratulate the good churchmen of St. John on securing the services of one so well qualified, as we feel assured Mr. Cameron is, to enter upon the duties of this important sphere. We are delighted to find Mr. Cameron in good health and so enthusiastic in his new profession. May he long be spared to work for the Master.

Mr. McCunn also returned in the same steamer. We understand he has not been very successful in inducing Gaelic Ministers to come out to our vacant Gaelic congregations. The fact is that the supply at home is not sufficient for Scotland itself. But why ask well-known men to come out at a venture? Why, for instance, does not one of the vacant congregations send a direct Call to such a man as the Rev. Jas. McDonald, of Oban, a clergyman whom every man in Nova Scotia respects? This would mean more than any number of general appeals.

St. Matthew's, Halifax.—This Congregation has decided that an assistant is needed by the minister, at least while the 78th Highlanders are in Halifax. This Regiment is Presbyterian, with the exception of about 60 or 70 men of all other denominations, and as the two companies now