

"MISSION WORK IN THE FAR WEST."

A SERMON,

PREACHED AT THE OPENING OF THE SECOND MEETING OF
THE SYNOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,

IN THE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VICTORIA,

1ST MARCH, 1893,

BY

REV. D. MACRAE,

RETIRING MODERATOR.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

ROMANS I., 13: 16.

"Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you (but was let hitherto) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

"I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wise and to the unwise.

"So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also.

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

From these words and frequent intimations elsewhere it is very evident, that from a very early period in his ministry, the Apostle had a very strong desire, an ardent longing to see Rome. His heart was set on visiting the Imperial City. It was a longcherished purpose, in all likelihood the crowning ambition of his life. Some years before setting his foot on Italian soil, writing to the small band of Christians in Rome he told them, "That he had a great desire these many years to come unto them." "That oftentimes he purposed to come unto them." "That he hoped for a prosperous journey unto them." But one reason and another led to the postponement of the long and perilous journey. At length the journey was commenced, but from abundant evidence, with no anticipation of its perilous character or strange termination, entering Rome a prisoner. His purpose evidently was to visit Rome on his way to Spain: intending on leaving Corinth to pass through Achaia and Macedonia on the way to Jerusalem, and "After I have been there I must also see Rome." Landing at Cesarea he went up to Jerusalem, where he was assailed by a furious mob, on the false charge of taking the Gentiles into the temple, from whom,