

penier; and so carefully instructs his children that the whole population are said to be very efficiently educated.

The Icelanders are true Scandinavians of the unmixed "sangre-bleu." They speak the pure Norse, from which some 60 per cent. of our own language is derived. In their honesty, truthfulness, hospitality, maritime enterprise, courage, and humble piety, we British are fain to trace some of our most cherished national traits, and from them undoubtedly we obtained our ideas of representative parliaments, trial by jury, and other honoured institutions.—*Good Words.*

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British Columbia.

From Victoria, Vancouver Island, we have the following account of the laying the foundation stone of St. Andrew's Church in the month of August last:—

The different Masonic Lodges, preceded by the Volunteers as a guard of honour, proceeded to the site in Courtney Street, where a halt was made, and the Provincial Grand Master, I. W. Powell, accompanied by the Grand Chaplain, the Rev. T. Somerville; the Grand Architect, T. S. Allatt; the Grand Treasurer, J. Robertson Stewart; the Grand Clerk, H. F. Heisterman; the Grand Master of the District Lodge, R. Burnaby; and the Managers of St. Andrew's Church, took their place on the platform. The National Anthem was then played by the band, and prayer offered by the Grand Chaplain. The current coins, the colonial papers, an account of the ceremony, and a history of St. Andrew's Church, were placed within the cavity prepared for them, and the foundation-stone was slowly lowered. The plumb, the level, and the square were then applied by the proper officers; and the Grand Master gave it three knocks, saying, "May the Almighty Architect of the universe look down with benignity upon our present undertaking, and crown the edifice with success." Wine, corn, and oil were then poured upon it, and the hundredth Psalm sung.

The Provincial Grand Master, I. W. Powell, addressing the members of St. Andrew's Church, said that it had afforded him much pleasure to lay the foundation-stone of their new church, and that, from the history and prestige of the Church of Scotland, he had little doubt of its future success. It was not long since a mere handful of their members had found it difficult to secure a place for their worship, and now they had a large congregation and a flourishing Sabbath-school. They had already a creditable building in sight, and the erection of this would be a monument of energy in a time of depression, and reflect great credit on the architect whose plans they had chosen. He begged to offer the fervent hope that nothing would ever occur to mar their Christian fellowship. After tendering thanks to the distinguished brother, R. W. District Grand Master Burnaby, and the brethren of the English jurisdiction who had assisted their Scottish brethren on the occasion, and to the Volunteers, he handed back the plans to the Architect, with the hope that the Great Architect would bring the undertaking so happily inaugurated to a successful issue.

R. Wallace, Esq., the chairman of managers, in returning thanks to the Masonic fraternity for their beneficent labours, remarked that the civilization of Scotland had been chiefly influenced

by its churches and its schools—that it was a maxim of Knox that wherever he planted a church there to place a school; that one of their distinguished countrymen had said, "Educate or hang;" that certainly education was the cheaper as well as the best instrumentality, and he hoped that their congregation, which was both united and strong would ever take an active part in promoting the cause of Education in the colony. He concluded by presenting to Dr. Powell the silver trowel used in the ceremony, which had this inscription: "Presented to I. W. Powell, Esq., M. D., Provincial Grand Master of British Columbia, by the Minister and Managers of St. Andrew's Church, on the occasion of laying its foundation-stone.—Victoria, V. I., Aug 20th. A. L., 1868."

The Rev. Mr. Somerville then said that often before had Masonry marshalled her processions and stretched forth her hands in the service of religion, that it was at the building of a temple she had first come forth in her full strength and beauty, and that once more she had applied the consecrating elements—the corn to symbolise the teeming goodness of the great and good God, the wine and the oil to remind them of their duties to the distressed, to express their desire that peace and prosperity might adorn the temple—that there was a special interest attached to a church on a distant shore, where its pinnacles would gladden the eye of the stranger, where the weary would pause to seek rest and the pilgrim supplicate protection from on high. As they were aware, their Church was one of the Established Churches at home, with equal rights and privileges as secured by the treaty of Union, but that recent decisions of the House of Lords and Privy Council had wisely placed all churches, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopal, in an equal position in the colonies—that he for one rejoiced in this, as it tended to dissipate the love of strife and promote the holy strife of love. He stated that they had been put in a position to build after much patient effort; he was sure that the structure about to be erected would give no occasion for his countrymen to be ashamed of it, and hoped that if any had forgotten the Church of their fathers they would now return as doves to their window.

The Honourable Chief Justice Needham remarked that they could not fail to have been impressed by the ceremonies of the occasion, and by the expressive symbols brought forth to signify the flowing goodness of their common Father; that although he could not boast of belonging either to the Masonic fraternity or the Church to which they had rendered such interesting service, yet he rejoiced to be present with so many of his fellow-colonists, and wish the minister, managers, and congregation of the Scottish Church, "God speed." They were all the better for meeting each other in this way. People talked gloomily of depression. He had been three years in the colony, and during that time he had been present on three such occasions. If these, then, were the manifestations of decay, the more of them the better.

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Departure of Rev. C. M. Grant.

On Sabbath 15th Nov., Rev. C. M. Grant, late pastor of St. Andrew's Church, preached in the morning from Heb. xi: 8, and after explaining the nature of Abraham's call, he narrated the steps that had led him to accept the call to Mission work in India. He urged his hearers to hear God's call to give their hearts and lives to God's work. In the even-