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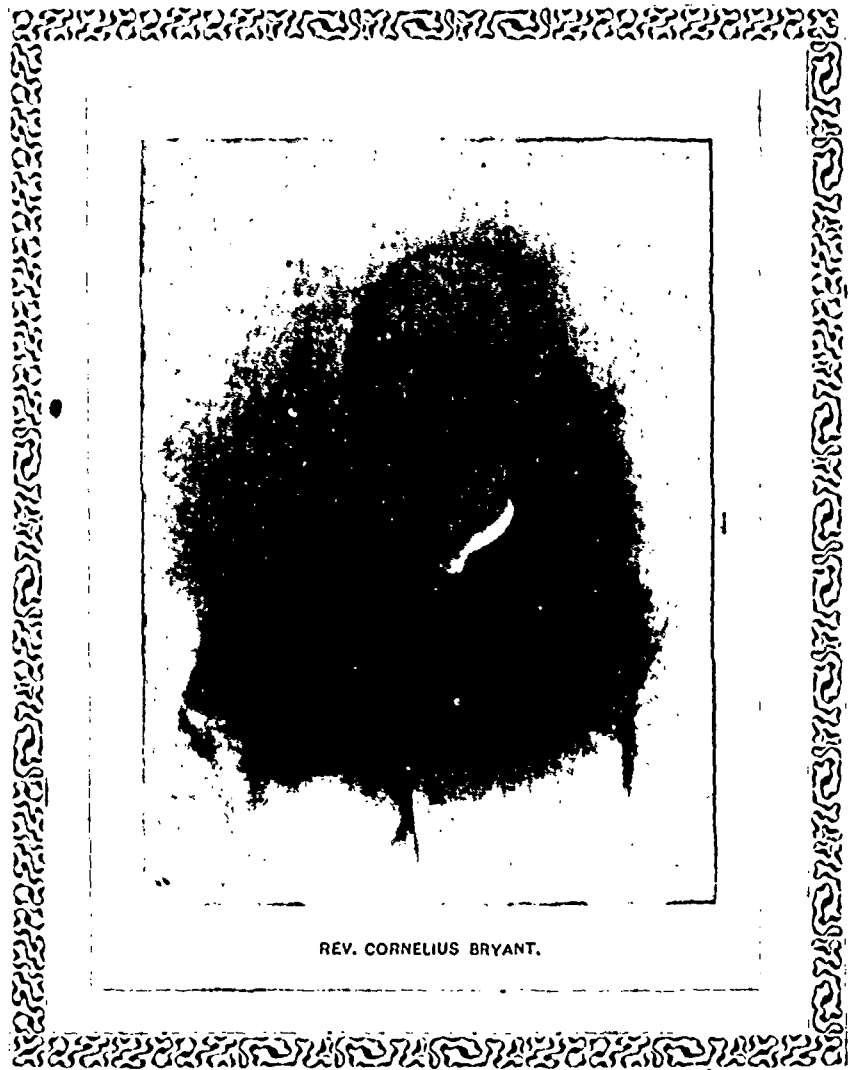
No. 8

REV. CORNELIUS BRYANT.

"As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
Swells from the vale, and midway, leaves
the storm,
Though round its breast the rolling clouds
are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles its head."

The Rev. C. Bryant, of whom we in this issue present a fine cut, has had a life experience which cannot receive anything like justice in the space at our disposal, but a few words of one who stands, in character, and consecration, as well as in physical height, well expressed in the lines of Goldsmith which appear at the head of this sketch, will be acceptable to the readers of the Recorder.

Mr. Bryant, as might be expected, came of truly pious stock, and from the happy village life of dear old England. His mother was one of the "salt of the earth," being ever engaged in work for the advancement of the kingdom of the Lord, "whose she was," from the days of her childhood. It was hers, for years, to collect the missionary money in the circuit of Netherton, near to Dudley. She was a woman singularly gifted in prayer, and many were the hearts touched by her appeals to the throne of grace for the baptism of the Spirit. For long years she was the devoted collector for the British and Foreign Bible Society, little thinking that one of her children should yet be, in the land to which the society and its work would be a boon unspeakable. Her son Cornelius was born in the year 1838, and received his early education from his mother, and in the schools of the village. When but a lad it was his delight to read the literature of the missionary and Bible societies with which the home was ever well supplied on account of the faithful work of the mother. From such reading the boy received his first desires for travel, desires which were afterwards to develop into the journey which brought him to the field of his life-work. In the "home land" the boy came in contact with the work of the Wesleyan Methodist preachers and, under the teaching of his mother, and the holy men who preached the gospel in the church of his native place, he was early in life led to the surrender of his heart, and service, to the Christ who had redeemed him, and who, as it appeared since, had for him a place in the ranks of his most honored ministers on the fields of pioneer missionary work. It was in the year 1855 that the



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great change of the "newbirth" came to the boy of seventeen, and from that to the present he has not felt a pang of sorrow at the life then freely chosen. Willing to work for the Saviour to whom he had resigned his all, he was not long till he graduated from the Sunday school class to the position of superintendent,—a prophecy of the place for which God was then preparing him in direct answer to the prayers of his mother.

In 1856 the young man bid farewell to the land of his birth, and to those as dear to him as life, many of whom he was never again to see till he shall

"See the King in His beauty."

Having friends in Nanaimo he turned his face to this terra incognita, and, after a wearisome voyage, was landed safe and sound in the "Black Diamond" village, now a prosperous city.

Having presented himself to the superintendent of education, then Rev. B. Cridge, now the Reverend Bishop Cridge of the Reformed Episcopal Church, Victoria, young Bryant was examined, and appointed as school teacher in Nanaimo. In this position he continued for many

years, and, not a few of those who have made a success of business in this country, can trace, to the excellent work done by the young school teacher of early days, the foundation of such success. But teaching was, after all, not to be the life-work of Mr. Bryant, and this was seen in the fact that it was on the 15th day of February, 1857, he held the first religious service ever held in Nanaimo. The Church of England form of service was used, and many, who had been hungry for some form of worship were greatly delighted. This start was followed by the gathering of the children together for singing and instruction in the services, which once begun, were not allowed to drop. Many were the kind words uttered by the officials of the country as they attended the services conducted by the stripling teacher.

Brother Bryant was also the father of the temperance work of Nanaimo, for it was through his efforts that the first Band of Hope was formed, and from then till now the place has had some kind of temperance organization.

The work begun in such a small way.