

many in Canada have friends here, and as it is here our missionary operations will have their commencement, I will give an extract from a book published in England by Captain G. H. Richards, R. N., who has spent some time in this country, entitled the "Vancouver Island Pilot":

"FRAZER RIVER, in point of magnitude and present commercial importance, is second only to the Columbia on the northwest coast of America. In its entire freedom from risk of life and shipwreck, it possesses infinite advantages over any other river on the coast, and the cause of this immunity from the dangers and inconveniences to which all great rivers emptying themselves on an exposed coast are subject, is sufficiently obvious. A sheltered strait, scarcely 15 miles across, receives its waters; and the neighbouring Island of Vancouver serves as a natural breakwater, preventing the possibility of any sea arising which would prove dangerous to vessels even of the smallest class.

"To the same cause may be attributed in a great measure the fixed and unvarying character of the shoals through which this magnificent stream pursues its undeviating course into the Strait of Georgia; and there can be little doubt that it is destined, at no distant period, to fulfil to the utmost, as it is already partially fulfilling, the purposes for which nature ordained it—the outlet for the products of a great country, whose riches in mineral and agricultural wealth are daily being more fully discovered and developed.

"NEW WESTMINSTER, the capital of British Columbia, stands on the north or right bank of the Frazer river, just above the junction of the North Fork, and fifteen miles in a general northeasterly direction from the entrance proper; it occupies a commanding and well-chosen position, being within an easy distance of the entrance, and having great facilities for wharfrage along its water frontage a good depth of water, and excellent anchorage.

"The river bank is somewhat precipitous in places, and the country at the back is like all the lower parts of the Frazer, densely wooded; a considerable clearing, however, of the timber has taken place in the vicinity of the town, which already assumes a prominent and thriving aspect, and when the facilities for entering the river and its capabilities are better known, will no doubt rise more rapidly into importance. The military establishment or camp of the Royal Engineers, a mile above New Westminster, is a most picturesque spot, commanding an uninterrupted view of the Queen's Reach, a broad, deep, and magnificent sheet of water."

In this interesting place, then, I have met with an exceedingly warm and cordial reception by Presbyterians from Canada, Scotland, and Ireland. It is very much to their credit, that long as they have been neglected by, and far distant as they are from their own respected and much-loved churches—"Old Kirk," "U. P.," and "Free"—they have united together in securing two beautiful sites for churches within the city limits; and also in presenting the following appropriate address of welcome to your missionary on his arrival:

"Dear Sir: We, the undersigned members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church, resident in New Westminster, desire to tender to you a cordial and hearty welcome on your arrival amongst us. Although numbering but few, we have long felt the want of a settled ministry resident in the colony—by which we might be gathered together to worship according to the simple faith of our fathers. To you, Sir, and to your colleague in the ministry, we look forward under the divine blessing, of being the means of drawing together the scattered followers of the church in British Columbia; and while engaged in such an arduous undertaking, we can heartily promise that you will receive every support that it is in our power to give you."

This address was presented to me by a deputation consisting of W. R. Spalding, Esq., J. P., Postmaster; J. Robson, Esq., Editor of the *British Columbian*; and J. Ramage, Esq., President of the City Council. It had over eighty names attached to it—some of them here for three years; some coming and going all the time; and some from the Camp, Royal Engineers, who have been here three years or more and have over two years more to remain. There