

along the way. We can scarcely recall a station at which we halted without meeting men or women from the Eastern Provinces belonging to our own church. The young boat-man who ferried us across the Bow River at Banff, in the heart of the Rockies, was a Gaelic-speaking member of our church from North Shore, Cape Breton! In Victoria, B. C., we met with young men from P. E. Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia,—young men who reflect no discredit upon their distant homes by the Atlantic.

On our arrival in British Columbia, our party arranged to visit as many stations as possible; some went to New Westminster, some to Nanaimo &c., while the bulk of the party proceeded by steamer to Victoria. We were there received with the greatest hospitality, numbers of leading citizens welcoming us as their guests. On Thursday evening, a meeting was held in the First Presbyterian Church, of which Rev. D. Fraser is pastor. Addresses were delivered on various branches of the work of the church, and the meeting was delightful and enthusiastic. The Moderator, and several other ministers remained in British Columbia for several days preaching and visiting. We have no doubt that the visit of so many office-bearers of our church to this beautiful Province and its sunny, lovely capital, will be productive of great good.

We rejoice to report favourably of the spirit of union and brotherliness prevailing among the Presbyterians of British Columbia. It is the same all the way from Newfoundland and P. E. Island to Victoria. The spirit of union is abroad, and not too soon, and not too powerfully. In Victoria, as elsewhere, the divisions of the past have been disastrous; but the healing process has begun, and will soon, by the help of God, be completed. No one will soon forget the zeal and liberality with which the Church of Scotland has wrought in this interesting field, and it is gratifying to know that her aid and sympathy are with us in our efforts to extend the work. The facilities for extending our home missionary operations have increased amazingly within the last few years. Railways and steamers bring us within comparatively easy reach of fields heretofore almost inaccessible. British Columbia is a country of snow-clad mountain ranges, of deep and rapid rivers, of fearful cañons and gorges, of untold

mineral wealth, of vast pastures for flocks and herds, and of splendid forests of fir and cedar. It is a country that tempts to adventure; and its sons are and will be a bold and hardy race. It is well that our church should here take hold of the work to which Providence manifestly calls her.

M.

Statistics of the Church.

ONE of the most valuable reports presented annually to the General Assembly is that of the Committee on Statistics, of which Dr. Torrance of Guelph, has been the Convener ever since the union. It is to this report that we naturally look for accurate information respecting the relative strength and progress, from year to year, of the congregations and of the church as a whole. If the report on statistics is not always as complete as it ought to be, it is not the convener's fault. This year, owing to a change in the time of receiving the returns from the congregations, a considerable number of these include the operations of only a part of the year. But, all things considered, this year's report is an admirable one in its execution and very satisfactory in its contents. Last year there were 39 Presbyteries, this year there are 42—One, *Orangeville*, having been formed in the Synod of Toronto and Kingston; one, *Columbia*, in the North-West; and one, *Indore*, in the Foreign Mission Field. The number of pastoral charges reported is 775. The largest number in one Presbytery is *forty*, being in the Presbytery of Montreal, and the smallest number, *two*, being in that of Newfoundland. Ninety-four vacancies are reported. Including theological professors, ordained missionaries, and ministers retired, there are nearly nine hundred ministers in the church. The total number of churches and stations supplied by ministers is 1773, many of the ministers having two congregations committed to their care and some of them three, this occurs most frequently in the Maritime Provinces and in the North-West. Thirty-six churches and fifteen manses are reported to have been built last year, and a number of churches enlarged. The sitting accommodation is now 410,975—an increase of 30,776 during the year.