

Holkar the Royal band was present and discoursed music which would be no discredit to our own Queen's Own. Sharp at 4 p.m. the audience assembled to the number of about 300, chiefly native officials and gentlemen but with fair sprinkling of the European community, amongst others Mrs. Crosthwaite, wife of our esteemed Agent Governor General.

The chair was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Wilkie, several members of the mission staff being seated near him. The meeting was opened by prayer by the Rev. Mr. Jameson after which Rev. Dr. Buchanan read the third chapter of second Corinthians and prayer was again offered by the Rev. Mr. Wilkie.

The chairman in his opening address expressed the deep gratitude we as a mission feel to our heavenly Father for His manifold blessings but especially for the tokens of His favour evidenced to-day. He also spoke in the highest terms of the large-hearted generosity of H. H. Maharajah Holkar in his munificent grant of four acres of ground for the Hospital site since added to by the gift of Rs. 750 for the building fund. In these and many other ways had the Maharajah shown not only a kind interest in the mission but a liberal and enlightened policy worthy of imitation. The presence here to-day, of the Prime Minister as the representative of His Highness to perform the ceremony, he said, was a token of the warm appreciation His Highness felt in the work of our ladies at Indore. The Prime Minister, too, he had to thank for his presence and kindly sympathy; he had heard in Bombay that he would find in the Prime Minister of Indore a warm friend and he could only say that these anticipations had been fully realized. To Mr. Scott, the Executive Engineer of the Indore Division, and Mr. Shapoorjee, the P. W. D. Supervisor, were due the public and very warm thanks of the mission for their unselfish and ever-ready assistance, without whose aid the work would not be in the present favourable condition. At all times they gave their time and skill freely and so counterbalanced the want of experience of the speaker. He expressed also his pleasure at seeing representatives of all classes of Indore, who thus showed their interest in the work of the mission. Letters of regret were read from a number who were not able to be present, from Prince Mahadudin, Principal Gannon, of the Daly College, Captain Ramsay, Captain Cahusac, Surgeon Major Caldecote, etc. Referring more especially to the work of the hospital he referred to the great interest manifested in the medical work for women in India by Lady Dufferin, and of the great advance made because of her help and sympathy. Coming to Indore he could not speak in too high terms of the work of our ladies. He said he was there simply as a figure-head, the motive power which had resulted in to-day's proceedings was to be seen in the ladies beside him. They, it was, whose aggressive work had first necessitated and then planned the building before them. But had not earnest Christian ladies in Canada with hearts full of love and sympathy for their unknown sisters in India not worked and saved, and even sacrificed, the building would not have been here to-day. In closing he invited not only a continuance of the interest already manifested but their co-operation and practical help.

After music by the band the Prime Minister was called on to lay the corner stone, at the same time being presented with a handsome silver trowel for H. H. Maharajah Holkar, whose representative he was. Within the stone were placed a history of the ladies' medical work at Indore, a programme of the day's proceedings, coins of Central India and Canada. After declaring the stone well and truly laid Rao Bahadur K. S. Bedarkar delivered an address in fluent English. Every good word should not only be appreciated but encouraged. If one would cast his mental vision back for even five years and compare that period with the present he would find a marked change in the estimation with which the people of India regarded medical work. In welcoming this new institution to their midst they could not express too highly their appreciation of the work of the Canadian mission in this direction. (Applause.) He had been commanded by H. H. Maharajah Holkar to be present on this occasion and participate in the ceremony. His Highness had the kindest feelings towards our mission and its work and in token of this he had extreme pleasure in handing to Mr. Wilkie this document the purport of which he would well understand. (The document contained a site of nearly four acres on which to build the proposed Mission College.) [Cheers.] These institutions would prove of the greatest benefit to the people of Indore and neighbouring States. He also intimated that His Highness had set apart a large sum of money for the erection of a State Hospital which would be fully equipped. The practice of medicine was not unknown in India from the earliest times, but now she was taking an interest in it hitherto unheard of. Though she had no wealthy philanthropists to erect such grand institutes as are to be found in England and America, still noble attempts were being made by her native princes and others, and when a conservative nation like India did move, though the advance was slow it was sure. He hoped this institution as well as the College would prove centres of rapidly developing work in all directions. He was glad to find that in the hospital full regard would be had for the caste prejudices of the patients and that special attention would be given to the training of native nurses and medical helpers. No profession could prove a greater blessing to humanity than that of medicine. He said he need not make elaborate mention of the work of Mr. Wilkie and his co-adjutors. It spoke for itself. India had no blessing equal to that which she has received from such men as Dr. Duff, Dr. Wilson, and others like them. The workers in the Canadian mission were entitled to

every encouragement and the greatest sympathy. He wished them every success in their noble works of dhurm (religion). In closing he could not express himself in more terse or feeling words than those of England's greatest poet:—

The quality of mercy is not strained,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath; it is twice blessed;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes;
It is mightiest in the mightiest.

Dr. Gumpat Singh, of the General Hospital, as the representative of the medical profession of Indore then expressed the warm regard they felt towards this the first hospital for women in Central India. He felt convinced it would prove of the highest value, especially if provision were made for the training of female native students.

The chairman then read a letter from General Balmukund expressing his regret that state business hindered him from accepting of our invitation to represent the Hindus on this occasion; he also stated that the Nawab Sahib of Bhopal, who was to have represented the Mahomedans, had personally expressed his regret that he was not able to be present.

Khan Bohadur Ardeshir on behalf of the Parsees then delivered a very interesting address expressing his pleasure at the occasion which had called them together. He spoke in warmest praise of the work for which the building was being erected, showing that it would be a blessing not only to the women for whom it was immediately intended but also by providing good mothers to their future generations. It deserves, he said, the fullest support of both sexes and all classes of the people. It had originated from the benevolence and humanity of pious missionaries and philanthropic Christians; but it was for the people of this country to see that it had their fullest sympathy and warmest assistance. He then went on to speak of the manifest advantages such an institution must bring to their city and country. He would thank the ladies and other missionaries on behalf of those whom he represented for their many kindnesses and manifest interest in the Parsee people. The warmest thanks were due to the Canadian Church for the magnanimous aid they have given in supplying the funds towards this and other praiseworthy objects. In closing he called upon all to show their appreciation of the noble work by contributing to the new hospital donations and gifts such as would increase its utility. He could only repeat his sincere wishes and prayers to Almighty God that this new hospital would prove a thorough success and source of blessing to all.

The Rev. Dr. Buchanan on behalf of the mission staff then addressed the meeting, assuring them that we were here at the bidding of our Master to show forth the Gospel and in doing so to prove the bidding of our Master Jesus Christ to show forth the Gospel, and in doing so to prove to them only friends. He was glad of the occasion which had called them together and pleased to see so many present manifesting their interest in our work.

The Rev. Mr. Russell then closed the meeting with the benediction and the band played "God save the Queen."

A pleasing feature was the marching to the grounds of the school and college boys, the latter becomingly dressed in their new gowns. The presentation of the land for the college was a very pleasant surprise, very gracefully given and a source of great comfort, as it will enable us to go on at once with the much needed college building.

Dr. Buchanan, from Ujjain, Mr. McKelvie, from Mhow, Mr. Jamieson, Miss Harris, and Miss Scott, from Neemuch, Miss Dr. Fraser, from Rutlam, and all the Indore Staff were present.

On leaving, the assembled guests were all decked with garlands by the students of the college.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

BY REV. DR. COCHRANE.

(Concluded.)

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

I need hardly say, is not the vast farming and agricultural territory that Manitoba and the North-West countries are but it has many fertile valleys near the cities and in the interior that produce crops unsurpassed on the continent. Its great resources are fish, Columbia salmon, etc., and mines containing gold, copper, coal, and almost every mineral that can be named. The old Cariboo mine, of 1858, excitement, which if, as some say, worked out, has given place to any number of mines, all the way from Donald along the Columbia, Thompson and Fraser Rivers. Many of them are worked by the Chinese, who bring their gold nuggets down to Victoria, where they are quickly bought up and sent on to San Francisco to be melted and coined.

While these statements are all within the limit of any one's experience who visits Vancouver, it should be added that, as in many places in Ontario, there are many men in Vancouver and elsewhere out of employment. The place is overstocked with clerks and salesmen who have come under the impression that situations are so plenty and wages so high, that they will at once find work and make small fortunes. For young men who are persevering, industrious and capable there are generally found openings, but some must wait for a considerable time before they get just what they want.

During our stay in Vancouver we had the privilege of preaching for the Rev. E. D. McLaren in St. Andrew's Church, and taking part in other services. St. Andrew's Church, recently erected, like that of its namesake in Victoria, is perhaps the most beautiful church building in the city and has just been provided with a magnificent fine-toned organ, built by Warren, of Toronto. The congregation is large and liberal, and comprises a great many of the prominent citizens. Mr. McLaren most worthily represents Presbyterianism, and is held in the highest regard by the members of all denominations. Perhaps no other city on the Pacific coast makes greater encroachments upon a minister's time than Vancouver. New arrivals every day from different parts of Ontario and the old world find their way to St. Andrew's

manse, and are all heartily welcomed and assisted by the minister. In addition to St. Andrew's, the First Church has now been provided with a pastor in the person of the Rev. Mr. Maxwell, formerly of Three Rivers, Que. And the congregation, formerly under the care of the United States Presbytery, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. McLeod, has now been received into our Church, so that we have, for the present, ample church accommodation even for the rapid accessions to Vancouver city.

From Vancouver we pass on to the royal city of

NEW WESTMINSTER.

charmingly situated on the banks of the Fraser River, and possessing attractions second to no city in British Columbia. Unlike Vancouver, New Westminster is an old settled place, and was formerly the seat of the Legislature. It still is the centre of legal matters, having the penitentiary and other public institutions within its limits. Along the river there are numerous canning factories where the salmon are prepared for the eastern and British markets. For many years, like Victoria, New Westminster was a rather staid, slow-going, dignified and conservative place, but recently it has made rapid strides, and gives evidence of enterprise and progress in common with other towns and cities in British Columbia. It is pre-eminently a choice spot for beautiful residences, and the new avenues and streets that are being laid out and graded in all directions indicate the increase of population of a superior kind. A magnificent pile of public buildings for the law courts and a handsome structure for the Young Men's Christian Association are among the many in course of erection. A railway, connecting the city with Seattle and other points on the Sound, will of necessity greatly augment the industries and business connections of the city.

There is still here, as elsewhere, a little of that feeling (which seems strange to those from Ontario) that regards Canada as some far-off foreign country to which they are bound by comparatively slender ties. Down east seems to them like the ends of the earth, while the United States cities on the Sound are regarded as their friends and allies. It is not so wonderful after all that we should find remains of this feeling, for until the opening of the C.P.R. Ontario was practically a *terra incognita*—an unknown country—to British Columbians. It should not, however, be so much longer. "With a great price" the Dominion has bridged the vast chain of mountains that seemed impassable to mortals, making communication now between the extreme east and west short and easy. We are all one, and if the East takes a just pride in the North-West and in this grand new province, so should our brethren in British Columbia take a becoming pride in the older cities and institutions of the Dominion.

Our Church at New Westminster is admirably served by the Rev. Mr. Scouler, formerly of Hamilton. A magnificent new church has been built and a comfortable manse at a cost in the neighbourhood of twenty thousand dollars. Mr. Scouler has an attached and daily increasing congregation. On the morning we preached, the church was filled, as was also the old church, now used as a lecture-room, on the previous Friday evening. The work has prospered so greatly under Mr. Scouler's charge that two new churches have been opened, and ground bought for two new churches at other points in the city. The Rev. Mr. Mills, formerly of Sunderland, has been appointed to these new stations, and from what we know of his success in his former field, the best results are looked for in his new position. It must be a cause of gratitude to all well-wishers of our Zion to find such amazing progress in British Columbia. For many years, up to 1882, our sole representative in British Columbia was the Rev. Mr. Jamieson, of New Westminster. Now we have a Presbytery of seventeen ministers, and a mission field of over sixty stations.

In closing this rapid sketch of my visit there are many things that I would like to emphasize. It hardly need be said that if our Church is to maintain its present proud position in the North-West and British Columbia, and respond to the calls made upon all the Presbyteries by the numerous settlers who are taking up land, the revenue must be greatly increased. By dint of the severest economy and refusal to occupy many important points, we have endeavoured as far as possible to keep the expenditure within our means. The result is that many places, like North Bend, Lytton and other places on the C.P.R. near Vancouver city, have no ministerial services of any kind whatever. One of the railway employees at North Bend, who came into Vancouver on the day I preached, told me that this was the only sermon he had heard for four years. They guarantee at this point six hundred dollars to help to support a minister, as they also do in other localities; but this means an outlay of at least four hundred dollars a year to each new field on the part of the committee with travelling expenses added. Such statements have frequently been made in the public press without the response that might have been expected from Presbyterians attached to the spread of their principles in these new and promising regions. Whether the means placed at our disposal this year will enable us to appoint additional missionaries in March next we cannot yet say. Another point is this: the missionaries wanted for the North-West and British Columbia need to be vigorous in body as well as in mind. We have so far been singularly blessed with self-sacrificing ministers and missionaries; they hardly ever complain of the fatigue and exposure to which they are subjected. There is a feeling, however, among some of our ministers that British Columbia is a place for invalids or convalescents, and that the work there is much easier than that of the North-West Territories. This is a mistake; while the climate is very different as a general thing to the North-West territories, none should go there who are not able to do hard work and drive long distances. It is to be greatly regretted that so few, comparatively, of our senior theological students permanently settle in these far-off fields.

My opinion is, although others may differ from me, that such Presbyteries as Winnipeg and Rock Lake are now sufficiently able to work their mission stations, just like the Presbyteries of Ontario and Quebec without much superintendence, and that the services of Dr. Robertson should be given mainly to such Presbyteries as Brandon, Regina, Minnedosa and Calgary. In other words, that whereas fifteen years ago Winnipeg was the centre of our mission work, that centre is now moved on a thousand miles. New branch railways such as those from Regina to Prince Albert and from Calgary to Edmonton are opening up every year new fields for our Church to enter.