

50. With this amount in Canada we could do a great deal; but you will better understand its comparative value when I state that our stoves and lamps cost about \$200, and our pews \$11 50c. each.

I cannot just now send you an exact account of the state of our funds, but I am not far wide of the mark when I state the cost of the church, so far, to be \$3,500, all of which is nearly paid, except \$500 which we have borrowed at what is the lowest rate of interest here—viz., eighteen per cent. per annum. A common rate is 25 and even 36 per cent., or as it is commonly spoken of, three per cent. per month!

Perhaps our friends in Canada think I ought to do more, or make more noise about what I am doing. I see some tokens already of impatience in some quarters. But even in the midst of struggles with so many difficulties, and above all the disappointments in spiritual matters, with some of whom I cannot now speak more particularly, I can "thank God and take courage." Impatience or dissatisfaction in Canada may be part of the cross allotted to those who bear the burden and heat of the day, but if God be glorified, and the blue banner of the Covenant wave here and there along the shores of the mighty Pacific, proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ to the "seething, surging mass of money-making clay," I am willing enough to be counted as nought, and will most gladly rejoice if others reap, where I feebly scatter the precious seed, and raise the material buildings.

Perhaps, too, I should state that the congregational committee have shown their entire confidence in me, by permitting me without question to make any changes from or additions to the first plan of the skeleton or exterior of the church, which was kindly furnished by Mr. Alexander White, now of Woodstock, and whose absence during the progress of the work was deplored by us all. That confidence has been shown throughout in allowing me to look after all the details of painting, plastering, pewing, etc., with the additional duty of getting subscriptions and collecting them—in short, just doing as I liked.

Though all these things have entailed very heavy labour, and great anxiety upon me, yet 'tis pleasant to think that we have prospered so well, and that peace is within our walls. While we have the followers of Demas and of Alexander, the coppersmith, among us, we have not been much troubled with any of the Diotrephes tribe.

Colonel Moody, when leaving the Colony, gave me a box of Old and New Testaments, which he received from the Edinburgh Bible Society when leaving Scotland, and of which he had made no use. The box contained about 180 copies, each containing our version of the Psalms, and a number of the Bibles having the Shorter Catechism bound up with them. They will prove a great boon to our people, especially as I can furnish them gratis.

I am glad to learn that Mr. Duff has received the appointment for British Columbia. You must allow him a very large discretionary power as to his field of labour on account of the great changes which frequently take place. He may have a good congregation in one station this year, and the next every man may be gone. Don't limit him even in the matter of head-quarters. If you expect him to spend much time in Cariboo, as he undoubtedly ought (if not the whole time) you will have to pay travelling expenses in addition to his salary, which I am afraid will be found too small. The least he can live upon in Cariboo, with his own tent, and being his own cook and servant of all work, is twenty-five dollars a week *for board alone*.

From all I can learn, however, if a minister were to remain in Cariboo all his time, and identify himself with the miners and the mining regions, a large part of his support could be obtained on the spot.

There is no minister in Cariboo this winter, though there were two churches built last summer. Next winter, I presume, there will be more than one, as the necessity for it is very much felt and acknowledged. In that case, of course, the support obtained by each from the miners will be considerably lessened. I shall do all in my power to get the people here to contribute as soon