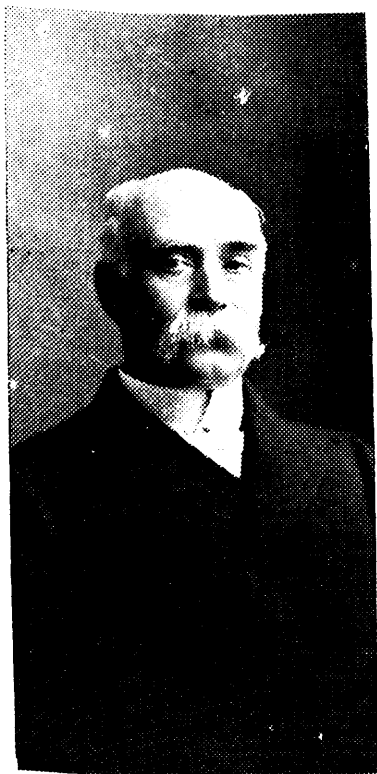


## THE INTRODUCTION AND PROGRESS OF PRESBYTERIANISM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

By Rev. Dr. Campbell, Victoria.



This is the Jubilee year of Presbyterianism in British Columbia, for fifty years ago the Rev. John Hall was sent by the General Assembly at the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to Vancouver Island, which then was considered so far away that it was as in the list of Foreign Mission fields. He preached the first sermon in British Columbia under Presbyterian auspices in Victoria on the last Sabbath of June, 1861. On the third of February, 1862, a meeting was held to organize a congregation, at which fourteen young men were present, with Mr. David Cameron, Chief Justice of the Province, in the chair. This motion, made by Alex. Lounsbury and seconded by Alex. Wilson, "That this meeting do now organize itself into a congregation to be called the *First Presbyterian*

*Church of Vancouver Island.*" Immediately after this became the resolution of "The gallant fourteen," a small committee was appointed to secure a site on which to build a church, and three men were elected trustees of the property, of whom the Honorable the Chief Justice was chairman. In due time a lot was purchased at the corner of Blanchard and Pandora streets for \$1,100. There the corner stone of the first Presbyterian Church was laid in March, 1863, and the church was formally dedicated for public worship on the 15th November of the same year. On this history-making event—the church dedication—the missionary was assisted