

places of ill-fame lent their aid to corrupt the morals of the people. Moreover, the bulk of the early emigrants were single men, or married men who had left their families behind them, and these coming in contact with the native tribes, who were without a moral code, and almost without a conscience in regard to social purity, the most deplorable results ensued. Because iniquity abounded, the love of many waxed cold, and not unfrequently the missionary found the chief hindrances to his work among some who had been members of the Church in the older Provinces. I am told there are men in British Columbia to-day, engaged in the liquor traffic in its lowest forms, or living in concubinage with Indian women, who were once members, and even official members, in the Methodist Church. Add to all this the fact that from the first the Methodist missionaries have had to stand almost alone in the fight against prevailing ungodliness, and the wonder is not that they have accomplished so little, but that they have accomplished so much. Laboring, as many of them do, in isolated places, among a scattered people, numbers of whom hate alike the missionary and his message, and uncheered by that frequent intercourse with fellow-workers which is enjoyed in older fields, is it any wonder if the toilers are sometimes discouraged by that "hope deferred" that "maketh the heart sick?" All honor to the faithful men who, in despite of such difficulties, stand manfully at their post, and wait patiently for the harvest that will yet come if their faith fail not.

The number of separate fields in the white work is fourteen, four of which are self-sustaining, namely, Victoria and Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, and New Westminster and Sumas on the mainland. Of dependent missions there are ten; two of these, Maple Bay and Wellington, being on Vancouver Island; four on the mainland, east of the Cascades; and four more on the great inland plateaus between the Cascades and the Rockies. These last I was unable to visit, because of insufficient time; but in regard to most of the others my information was derived from personal visitation.

Of the missions on Vancouver Island I cannot speak in very hopeful terms. The Island itself is large—some 300 miles in length, by an average of 60 miles in width, comprising an area of some 20,000 square miles. The climate is all that the most exacting could desire, and what soil there is may be described as fairly productive; but it is to be found only in limited quantities, the general character of the Island being mountainous. SAANICH is a peninsula lying north of Victoria, having Haro Strait on the east and Saanich Inlet on the west. It contains good farming land, and a fairly well-to-do population. Taken in its entirety, it would form a good field, which, in the near future, might become self-sustaining; but the supply of Methodist ministrations in the past has been very intermittent, in consequence of which another denomination now occupies one-half the field, and there is not much ground to hope that the other half will ever become an independent charge. Nor is there any adjacent field with which it could be united. At present it does not appear