

12 n. h. m. t. ill. m. n. t. 1850.

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay, of Portland, Oregon, preached the opening sermon, and the Rev. Mr. Aitken, who was then supplying the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church, preached in the afternoon.

The first kirk session was elected in July of that year, and consisted of James Bissett, Robert Wallace, Wm. Gibson and Alexander Munro.

The necessity of supplying the outlying sections of the colony with the ordinances of religion impelled the new session to petition the home church to send out other ministers to co-operate with Mr. Somerville; and in 1870 the Rev. Simon McGregor, of West Branch, Nova Scotia, arrived to take part in the work of the mission under appointment of the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland. In the same year Mr. Somerville returned to Scotland, where, as parish minister, first in Kirkintilloch and later in Blackfriars, Glasgow, he wielded a great influence until his death, which occurred only two years ago. It gave peculiar pleasure to many old friends in St. Andrew's when one of our Canadian colleges, thirteen years ago, recognized his worth by conferring on him the honorary degree of D.D.

Again the Church of Scotland was left with but one minister to represent her in British Columbia. For eleven years Mr. McGregor wrought with great faithfulness and zeal, and so won for himself a large place in the affections of the congregation and the confidence of the community.

His written appeals for assistance having failed to impress the church at home with the needs and claims of the Province, in 1875 Mr. McGregor paid a personal visit to Scotland to endeavor by the living voice and personal contact to gain those reinforcements that epistolary correspondence had failed to secure. So successful was that visit that on his return he was accompanied by three ministers, the Revs. Wm. Clyde, Alexander Dunn and George Murray. These men, with the Rev. A. B. Nichol-