

WESLEYAN
MISSIONARY NOTICES,
CANADA CONFERENCE.

No. XIX.]

MAY 25, 1859.

[EXTRA.]

CONTENTS.

Letter from Rev. Dr. Evans.....	298	Letter from Mr. Jas. Ashquabe...	310
Letter from Rev. E. Robson.....	306	The New Colony.....	311
Letter from Rev. J. A. Dowler....	309	Wesleyan Missionary Society.....	312
Letter from Rev. W. Dignam.....	310	Acknowledgement	312

TORONTO :
WESLEYAN CONFERENCE OFFICE,
KING STREET.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS ON THE BUSINESS OF THE MISSIONS ARE TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY NOTICES,

MAY 25th, 1859.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Several letters to the General Superintendent of Missions mention the avidity with which the quarterly Wesleyan Missionary *Notices* of the Canada Conference are read, and the time seems to have come when a more frequent and liberal regular issue of them is a subject claiming the consideration of the Board of Management. The importance of recent communications from the respected Chairman, and one of his colleagues, on the Pacific Mission, warrants this Extra for the gratification of our friends.

† Dr. Evans, much to our mind, adopts the old Wesleyan practice of Journalizing, and his statements, and those of Mr. Robson, will be read with unmingled satisfaction, not only for their minuteness and judiciousness, and clearness of dates, but for their christian and ministerial exhibition of energy and endurance. The apostolic system of Itinerancy and visitation is fairly established in British Columbia; the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor are the Society's patrons; and every step in advance ascertains the demands which the new Colony has on the approval of the public. The safe return in health of Dr. Evans from his important tour to Fort Yale, and the cheerful spirits of his co-helpers, are among the chief blessings which a gracious Providence vouchsafes; and their aptitude at unusual and trying, but indispensable duties, excites our admiration; and they and their worthy families, having no immunity from peril in their travels and labours, well know, that in Canada and in England, the affectionate prayer for all is,—Hide them, O Lord, in thy promised pavilion!

Their report of the intelligence and friendliness of the miners, of different nationalities, is what we expected; the accidental finding of a dead body on one of the bars of Fraser River, and the informal burial rites, are touching; the discovery of some christian households, and of "the good old family altar," in so strange a land, is light in darkness. The Parent Wesleyan Missionary Society had for its first vessel the "Triton," and its "John Wesley" now plies from Island to Island, and is hailed by coral shores crowded with evangelized Polynesian pagans; and, following in the wake of the parent, it is an agreeable incident, that the first tiny vessel of our Missionaries on the Fraser is properly denominated "The Wesleyan,"

the gift of several kind well-wishers to Methodism. The entire Pacific undertaking is financially serious, and Canadian contributors have greatly increased responsibilities to bear; but such an act, and an impromptu subscription for the convenience of Mr. Robson, opportunely shew the good will of the generous men of the mines,—and the Society thanks them. The sublimest principle of the Wesleyan economy is here developed—*Seek and save the lost.*

Another letter, on various business, from the Chairman, conveys the very gratifying intelligence, that in Victoria, where the obtaining of a site without purchase was doubtful, three lots joining each other have been handsomely granted by the Hon. Hudson's Bay Company in a most eligible locality on an avenue, suitable for a church, parsonage and garden,—very valuable; and only two or three days before this information was received, a lady in Eastern Canada sent to the Mission House in Toronto £50 for a Wesleyan Church at Victoria. God's hand is in this Mission, and Dr. Evans writes for *three more Missionaries* at least, and presses their *immediate* coming; and as volunteers for this remote service await the will of the Conference, there seems no obstacle to an immediate multiplication of British Columbia labourers but an inadequacy of funds, and the just requirements of other valued Missions.

These prized communications, like others, describe with pungent feeling the condition of the Aborigines, and there is now needed a Peter Jones for the Indian tribes, and a Piercy for the Chinese, and a man of Joseph Wolff's spirit for the Germans and Jews, in this immense, auriferous, and too unchristianized British region. At no period in the progress of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Canada were her obligations to evangelistic duty so weighty, nor her reward for prompt self-sacrifice and munificence so visible, remunerative, and alluring.

Extract from the Journal of the Rev. Ephraim Evans, D. D.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2nd, 1859.—Left Victoria at 6 A. M., on steamer *Beaver*, Capt. Sinclair, belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, accompanied by Rev. E. Robson, and Mr. J. T. Pidwell, Class-leader at Victoria. My design is, by the blessing of God, to proceed by the *Beaver* to Fort Langley, and thence by a steamer of light draught to Fort Hope and Fort Yale, for the purpose of getting information and making my own observations on the state of the country, as regards present population, and prospect of future settlement, as also to select suitable sites for Churches, Parsonages, &c., at the points which are likely to become centres of operation. I hope to find opportunities for Mr.

Robson and myself to preach the word of life, from time to time, to the miners and others who have been for some months in the country without the means of grace, and to leave him to labour among them.

Found the steamer crowded with deck-passengers, chiefly miners, a heterogeneous mixture of English, Scotch, Irish, British Colonists, Americans, Germans, French, and Italians, with a considerable proportion of Jews, from various countries, engaged in multifarious forms of traffic. Among the cabin-passengers were His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Moody, and suite proceeding to make arrangements for the immediate survey of the new seat of

government, Queenborough, In addition, we had the company of Mr. Pearkes, Crown Solicitor, and several other members of the legal profession, on their way to attend the assizes to be held at Langley next week. The urbanity of His Excellency, and the general religious tone maintained by him in conversation, furnished a very refreshing contrast to the profanity with which the ear was almost incessantly assailed while mingling with the company on deck. A few words of remonstrance kindly spoken from time to time, however, seemed to put a temporary check upon the stream of blasphemy which many of these adventurers seemed to regard as essential to the construction of a sentence.

The morning was exceedingly fine, and promised a speedy and pleasant voyage. But about 11 o'clock the wind arose, causing a short troublesome swell, which caused the loss of many a breakfast, and an indisposition to further gustatory gratification. The weather becoming hazy, the steamer was run into a sheltered nook among the Islands, and brought to anchor about 3 P. M., it being deemed dangerous to attempt to wind her way among the sand-banks at the mouth of Fraser River except in clear weather. I went ashore in a boat with His Excellency, and a few other gentlemen, and spent an hour or two in exploration. The island abounded in a large species of Spruce, here designated Pine, and with Cedar very similar to that of Western Canada. I was surprized to find the latter growing as thickly, and of as large dimensions, upon the mountain elevations, as in the swamps and ravines. The coast exhibited a surface stratum of trap-rock and conglomerate, underlaid by freestone admirably adapted for building purposes. Saw no birds or animals. An Indian canoe came in with a few fish, chiefly a species of rock-cod.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3rd.—In the morning found the steamer under weigh. Anchored off Fraser River about noon. At 3 P. M., weighed again, and proceeded up the River. For some miles the country is low, consisting apparently of sand bars, filled up with the deposit of the River. It must be fre-

quently flooded, and is quite unfit for cultivation. Advancing up the River, the banks become more elevated. The general aspect of the country, and the kinds of timber with which it is overgrown, strike the mind unfavourably as to its adaptation to agricultural purposes. Yet exploration may find tracts of land capable of cultivation. I have not met with any person who has been in the interior, the entire travelling being on the River, and the all-absorbing anxiety of travellers being to arrive as early as practicable at the gold fields. Analogical reasoning suggests the strong probability that the great Creator has not left so immense a region, in a climate so mild and healthy, without the necessary arrangements for sustaining a population.

About 17 miles up the river, lies the site of the proposed capital of British Columbia, to be called Queenborough. It is situated on the north bank, and has been selected with reference to its advantageous position for military defence, as also its alleged facilities for forming a great commercial depot. The eastern portion of it presents a somewhat bold shore, said to be closely approachable by vessels of heavy draft; and the entire frontage of upwards of two miles is reported to be available for shipping purposes by the construction of wharves of moderate length. Colonel Moody kindly indicated to me an outline of his plan for laying out the town, which included its division into what may be designated the commercial, the trading, and the residence portions. The whole, it is stated, can be readily supplied with excellent water, to be brought from an elevated mountain stream in the rear of the town plot. In many respects the site seems to be well chosen, but viewed from the steamer the ascent from the river appears to be so precipitous as to present considerable difficulty in the formation and grading of the streets. Actual survey, however, has probably dissipated any fears entertained on that point, at first view. Some small clearings have been made, and some few buildings are in course of erection by the Royal Engineer Department for public purposes. At 8 P. M., we reached Langley; the passengers gene-

rally landed, but we accepted the hospitalities of the steamer which were kindly offered for the night.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH.—Called at the H. B. Co.'s Fort, where I presented to the Chief Factor, Mr. Yale, a letter of introduction from Governor Douglass, and made arrangements for preaching at the Fort on Sabbath morning. Dined at a public boarding-house, amid a crowd of hardy-looking men, most of whom were on their way to the mines. The dining-room was a spacious apartment, containing, in addition to the benches, and long table, a counter for business, a large quantity of baggage, provisions, &c., and about twenty beds. In the afternoon went to Lower Langley, about two miles below. Had an interview with Colonel Moody at the barracks. Inspected the town-plot to select a Church and Parsonage. Left an appointment for preaching at the Barracks on Sunday afternoon. Returned to Upper Langley, and slept in the many-bedded room.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH.—Ascertained that the steamers cannot ascend the River beyond this place until the water rises. Crossed the River to an Indian Ranch. Bought a canoe, paddles, and mats. Returned to Lower Langley. A few gentlemen subscribed sufficient to pay for the canoe, &c. Purchased cotton-duck for a tent, coffee-pot, knife, hatchet, and tow-line. Worked with Robson and Pidwell sewing tent. Completed it at 11 P. M. Slept in more comfortable quarters, the room containing only four beds.

Much dissatisfaction and discouragement at Lower Langley, on account of the selection of Queenborough as the seat of government. Parties who had purchased lots, and made arrangements for building, have suspended operations, and a general impression prevails, that the town will be abandoned. A Church, and Parsonage, however, are being erected for an Episcopal Clergyman who officiates as Chaplain to the troops. There are more inhabitants at Upper Langley than here. But they are chiefly transient visitors,—passengers for the mines. The greater part of the buildings are upon a low sandy spit thrown up by the freshets of former years, and they are doubtless destined to find their way in fragments to the

Gulf of Georgia when the River rises, unless previously removed to higher ground.

SABBATH, MARCH 6TH.—In the forenoon I preached to a small congregation in a room temporarily fitted up in the Company's Fort. In the afternoon went to Lower Langley, where Mr. Robson preached in the Barracks at 3 P. M. The congregation was small, consisting of military and civilians. His Excellency, Col. Moody, was present, with some gentlemen of his suit. Service had been held in the forenoon by the Rev. Mr. Crickmar, a devoted, and as I judge a catholic spirited clergyman of the Church of England, who was to preach at the Company's Fort in the evening. The contrast between the little companies gathered here for worship, and the large congregations in Montreal and Kingston, from which my colleague and I have been so recently separated, is calculated to raise the question as to where the path of duty really lies. But we console ourselves with the reflection that we are here at the bidding of the Church, and are laying foundations for a great future. May God vouchsafe his gracious guidance and blessing.

MONDAY, MARCH 7TH.—Called upon His Excellency, by appointment, at 8 A. M. Held a brief, but interesting conversation on the importance of the religious element in modelling the population of new Colonies. I am delighted and encouraged by a deepened conviction of the profound conscientiousness, and high religious aspirations of this excellent man, and have no doubt that God will prosper his administration. On parting, he put into my hand a written address, to be read to the mining population, full of frankness, manly kindness, and godly sentiment and counsel.

About 9 A. M., Mr. Robson, Mr. Pidwell and myself embarked in our canoe, which we had named "THE WESLEYAN," which cognomen I had rudely carved upon two of my paddles on Saturday night. We were earnestly urged by some of the people here, not to venture on the voyage unaccompanied by some Indians acquainted with the set of the currents, and with the rapids up which we shall have to pass. The hire of these guides I ascertained would be, like

every thing here, procurable only at a high rate. I therefore decided to be my own Indian, and knowing that Mr. Robson was an adept at canoe travelling, and that our lay-companion was able and willing to learn paddle-practice, I took the steering paddle, and committing ourselves to God's safe-keeping, we started, hoping to falsify the predictions of one kind-hearted woman, who warned us that we should be "capsized two or three times, and drowned once." The weather was cold, but fine, and conducive to health and good courage. Paddled all day against the current. No strong rapids. Lunched on cold roas'ed duck, and bread and water. Camped at sun-set on the beach, near to a tent of Frenchmen and Indians. Night very cold. No dry wood procurable. Had difficulty in keeping up a fire. Supped on cold duck, with a cup of tea. After worship, lay down, and slept as well as we could.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH—Rose early. All felt a little sore from the unusual exercise of yesterday. Breakfasted, and embarked at 7 A. M. Found the current increasingly strong. About noon landed, and dined on pork and beans at a shanty constituting a way-side place of entertainment for voyageurs. While the meal was being prepared, our host took me to the beach, and washed two or three pans of "dirt," as clean gravel and sand are technically called, for the purpose of convincing me, and circulating the intelligence, that the bar is auriferous. Being the first opportunity I have had to see the washing process, I was much interested in the result, which exhibited among a sediment of heavy black sand left at the bottom of the pan, very fine particles of the coveted metal, capable of being extracted by amalgamation with quick-silver.

After a hasty meal, resumed our voyage. Soon came to rapid water, required hard labour to propel the canoe. Where it was practicable, two of the party landed, and by the use of a long towing line contributed to our victory over the turbulent waters. Wet feet and weary limbs were among the fruits of this mode of navigation. Purchased some potatoes from an Indian, being apprehensive that our voyage would occupy more time than we had reckoned

upon when laying in our stock of provisions. In the evening encamped in company with two other parties, consisting of three Americans, one Nova Scotian, and six Chinese. Being wet, the night very cold, and the inflammable properties of the wood very indifferent, we slept but little.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH—Struck the tent after breakfast, and embarked. Paddled and towed all day against a strong current, and numerous rapids, requiring frequent crossing and re-crossing of the river to avoid shoals, and avail ourselves of eddies. Camped at night, and were shortly joined by our companions of last night. Wet and weary from wading and tracking. Ground covered with snow. Night very frosty. Mountains all around from one thousand to three thousand feet high—very effectual refrigerators.—Found our provisions exhausted, except a few potatoes, on which we supped. While Mr. Robson made up a fire, Mr. Pidwell and I went to cut cedar branches to spread under our blankets. At a foot of a large tree found a bag containing about thirty pounds of white beans, which had probably been pilfered from some traveller's tent and left here by the sons of the forest for after-removal.

Thankful for such an unexpected supply, took possession of the prize.—Bartered for some flour. Mr. Robson sat up baking cakes until about midnight. While erecting our tent, in the evening, we were hailed by a white man, who with two Indians in a canoe was running rapidly down the stream. He told us that a dead body lay on the beach two or three miles up, and that he had no tools for effecting its interment. Agreed with our mining companions to call on our way in the morning and inter it. Thankful for our preservation, had prayers, and sought for refreshing sleep.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH—Breakfasted on Mr. R's cakes, which were pronounced to be of good quality; lunched and embarked. After proceeding about three miles, our attention was drawn to a large flock of crows on the opposite side of the River, whose movements suggested to us the revolting work in which they were engaged. The river here is wide. We crossed it at the

head of a strong rapid, and then ran down to a spit or projecting point, on which lay the body of a respectably dressed man. The clothing was much torn, and the pockets had been cut off. On examination found no marks of violence, and concluded that he had been drowned, and subsequently plundered. The face and neck were entirely destroyed by the ravenous birds upon whose repast we had intruded. On the arrival of our companions on the opposite side, we signalled to them not to cross, as it was impracticable to dig a grave. The body lay in three or four inches of water, and could not be removed. We therefore covered it with a mound of stones, and in the impressive form of our funeral ritual, reminded ourselves that "in the midst of life we are in death." Unable as we were to identify the body, we knew that he was the child, perhaps the husband, and the brother of some distant ones, whose hearts would be comforted could they know that we had performed this christian rite, and saved the loved remains from further revolting exposure. The lesson was monitory and religiously suggestive to us, who were to brave the maddened currents which had robbed a fellow being of his life, and perhaps unexpectedly ushered him into the presence of his Judge.

Proceeding on our voyage, the weather became very disagreeable.—The day was spent in tracking and poling up a succession of rapids. Snow and rain fell incessantly. All our clothing was saturated, but we were obliged to push on, lest our diminished stock of food should fail us. Late in the afternoon we attempted to overcome the strongest rapid yet met with, but found it impracticable. Landed, beached and unloaded canoe in order to make a portage in the morning. Were kindly assisted by four miners, who conducted us to their cabin, furnished us with change of clothing, a good fire at which to warm ourselves and dry our apparel, gave us a hearty supper, the best lodging in their power, and the pleasing information that we were within 6 miles of Fort Hope. After prayers we retired to rest, and slept refreshingly.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH—Breakfasted with our kind and hospitable hosts,

who declined any remuneration beyond our thanks and prayers. After making portage, we again took to the paddles. Passed a number of bars on which goldwashing was being diligently and as far as we could judge, profitably prosecuted. The greater portion of the men were busy with rockers, while other parties were extracting the precious dust in more satisfying quantity by sluicing. Calling at the principal bars, we announced for preaching at Fort Hope on the Sabbath, and invited attendance. Toiled hard against the steep rapids, and reached Fort Hope at 11 A. M.

The gentleman in charge of the Company's Fort was absent. Called upon Robert Smith, Esq., J. P., and Post Master, who kindly placed an unoccupied room at our disposal; on the floor of which we spread our mats and blankets at night, thankful for God's preserving care. Dined at a Restaurant kept by a young man who was a fellow-passenger from San Francisco to Victoria. Spent the evening pleasantly and profitably with a family from Oregon. Having decided on leaving Mr. Robson here, I engaged an Indian to assist us in ascending the river.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH—Left Fort Hope after breakfast. Weather more favourable. Indian worked well. Passed many miners at work on the bars. Announced for services to-morrow at Fort Hope and Fort Yale. Poled up two strong rapids, in one of which, near Hill's Bar, several fatal accidents have occurred. Reached Fort Yale at 2 P. M. Called on Captain Brew, gold Commissioner of the Districts, who introduced me to Capt. Whannell, Senior Magistrate, who received us with great urbanity. The hospitalities of his house were offered, and by himself and lady we were treated with every attention during our stay. I pray that God will requite them for their christian kindness, and trust that Mrs. W. may live to see herself surrounded by a social circle whose tastes and habits shall fully accord with her truly English training and predilections. In the evening visited a sick woman. Passed through the town, announcing for two public services for to-morrow.

SABBATH, MARCH 13TH.—Preached twice in a room built for a Court-house

in which, as I was happy to learn, Colonel Moody conducted Sabbath worship during his visit in the winter. The congregations were not as large as I anticipated, owing I fear to nearly all the business establishments of the place being open for trading, &c. Those present appeared to listen with attention to the word, and to receive it with gladness. There is a fearful amount of Sabbath desecration. I was informed that the Sabbath sales exceed those of the rest of the week. Nor is this the worst feature of the case. Many of those who throng from the surrounding bars to purchase necessaries, spend much of their time in the drinking saloons, which are numerous. I cherish the hope, that through the combined influence of religious ministrations, when regularly established, and of prompt administration of the law of the land, this fruitful source of general demoralization will be checked, and the true foundations of an orderly and virtuous community be laid.

MONDAY, MARCH 14TH—In the morning inspected the Town plot to select site for Mission buildings. Visited and prayed with a sick person. At 10½ A. M. embarked on return to Fort Hope. The opinion universally expressed is that a visit at present to the Upper Frazer, and to Thompson and Bridge Rivers is unadvisable, and had better be deferred until the weather becomes more settled, and better opportunity afforded for satisfactory exploration.—In this view I reluctantly acquiesce, fully purposing, if I be spared, to pass through the entire mining field during the approaching spring and summer.

The weather exceedingly disagreeable. Had scarcely embarked when a cold sleeting rain began to descend. The wind arose, and although we had the advantage of the current, our utmost efforts were at times required to make any progress. About noon the rain fell in torrents, accompanied by squalls of wind which frequently threatened the safety of our frail vessel, especially while hurrying down the rapids which were thrown into fury by the opposing gusts. After fatiguing labour reached Fort Hope at 3, P. M., completely soaked. Found Mr. Robson well, and encouraged by the labours of the past Sabbath. Changed clothing,

and spent the afternoon in reconnoitering the town plot for building sites.

My conviction being that Fort Hope will become the head of a circuit, I have decided upon leaving Mr. Robson here for the present, with instructions to extend his labours over this town and Fort Yale, including the intermediate and adjacent bars. This will involve no small amount of exertion, and some exposure, but I have unhesitating reliance upon Brother Robson's fidelity, and commit him to God for protection and blessing.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15TH—Arose early, and prepared to proceed to Langley in a large canoe, as passengers, leaving "THE WESLEYAN" in charge of Mr. Robson. Beside ourselves, there were the skipper, and two other men whom we supposed to be his crew, but who turned out to be passengers. Embarked at 8, A. M. Soon found that we had to contend against a strong head wind, and to endure another rainy day. The further discovery was early made that although we were paying-passengers, our own arms must contribute the principal propelling power, in order to reach our destination in time to secure the Steamer for Victoria. One of our fellow-passengers was an invalid, and could not be expected to make much exertion. We had not proceeded far when the commodore indicated his intention to occupy two days on our voyage. To this I firmly objected, as it might occasion us a week's detention at Langley, and insisted on the fulfilment of the promise to reach Langley that night. Stopped one hour at the mouth of Harrison River to lunch, and proceeded again. Inadequately provided with water-proof apparel—a plight in which I hope not to be found again on such an excursion—we were again thoroughly drenched for some hours. About 8, P. M. we found ourselves aground in a cove or creek—the steersman having mistaken it for a channel of the river which is here studded with islands. Here he wished to encamp but we protested against detention. After some exploration, found that we were separated from the main channel by a sand bar. Over this we succeeded in dragging the canoe, and after hard toiling reached Lower Langley at midnight, cold, wet, weary, sore,

hungry, sleepy, but happy and thankful, having pushed through the storm a distance of seventy or more miles. In my earlier life, I have done many a hard days work, but never felt so thoroughly wearied as on arrival here. A hot stove, and a hot supper prepared us for bed, and through the mercy of God, I enjoyed a most refreshing sleep.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16TH.—Left Langley in the Steamer *Beaver*. Lay off and opposite Queenborough about two hours, landing freight by the boats. At evening came to anchor at the mouth of the river.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH.—Had a pleasant run, and arrived at Victoria in the afternoon. Found my colleague and our families in good health and spirits.

The general impression made on my mind during this rapid journey is, that the gold regions have but begun to develop their hidden wealth. The most reliable reports represent the upper country as far surpassing the Lower Frazer in mineral treasure. The land as seen from the River, as far up as Yale, does not seem to be well adapted for remunerative culture. Yet it is highly probable that fine intervals exist among the lofty peaks which form the mountain ranges; and it is stated that beyond the canon rapids above Fort Yale, is a fine tract of hard-wooded and plain and prairie lands, with a climate even more mild and general than is found between the Coast-Range and the Cascade mountains. If this be the case, the real interests of the colony would be permanently promoted by the immediate introduction of an agricultural population. Should the lands be disposed of at very low rates, or even by free grants to actual settlers, so as to offer inducements to the enterprising sons of our Western Canadian farmers, and the hardy lumber-men of the Lower Provinces, to bring their energy and skilled industry to bear upon the removal of the Forest, and the literal conversion of the wilderness into a fruitful field, the public weal and the resources of the government would advance with much greater rapidity, than will result from attempts to raise a revenue from the sale of lands at high prices. Such attempts can only retard the settlement and culture of the

country, and for many years drain it of its gold in exchange for the agricultural products of Washington, Oregon, and California. These remarks apply as well to Vancouver Island as to the main.

The religious aspects of the country are such as to excite the anxieties, stimulate the zeal, and heavily tax the faith and self-denial of the church of God. The great mass of the people have avowedly come for the purpose of speedily amassing wealth. It were well, would they seriously ponder the utterance of God concerning him "that maketh haste to be rich." Those who have come from other gold countries are generally unsettled and migratory in their tendencies and habits—men of energy and impulsiveness. They are distinguished by many traits of intelligence, generosity and manly character, but are exceedingly impatient under attempted legal and religious restraints. Many of this class, and of immigrants from other countries, have been members of christian churches, but their isolation from the established means of grace has exerted a damaging influence upon their piety. Ministers possessing vigour and deeply imbued with the love of souls, must become as migratory and as regardless of present personal comfort as they; and must follow them every where with the mandates of Divine majesty, and with the melting message of mercy teaching them to subordinate the love of gold to the love of God, and to seek their treasure in heaven. The time is remote when this will be a land parcelled out into snug "stations," or where "circuit preachers" can plan to have their monthly "leisure week." Distance may lend enchantment to the view, but the rich romance of missionary life will prove a rough reality to those whose responsibilities are duly felt. O that God himself may model and marshal a host of mighty labourers for this vast field!

Another class must not be overlooked or neglected. Vast numbers of aborigines are scattered over the sea coasts and the interior. They have the appearance of physical and intellectual superiority to some of the eastern tribes. Formidable in their numbers, and proud and retaliatory, they must be a source of great uneasiness to the white popu-

lation for years to come, unless they are brought under the civilizing influences of true christianity. I trust that a great and effectual door will soon be opened, and that our Wesleyan Church in these Colonies may be as eminently successful among them as she has been among their red brethren

in Canada. At present, whenever they are brought into contact with the white population, mutual demoralization results to an alarming extent, for the arrest and prevention of which nothing can be effectual but the divinely attested preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Ebenezer Robson, dated Fort Hope, British Columbia, April 1, 1859.

Dr. Evans and my other brethren will have informed you long ago of our arrival in these Colonies, and also of our operations in Victoria. I shall, therefore, leave "The voyage, "Victoria," "Vancouver," &c., and confine my remarks to British Columbia, which is now my field of labour; and I can say as to extent, it is as large as *any circuit* in the early days of Canadian Methodism.

On Wednesday, March 2nd, Dr. Evans, J. T. Pidwell, Esq., and myself started from Victoria for "the Fraser." We arrived at the mouth of the River on Thursday afternoon after lying at anchor several times on account of the bad weather. The same evening at 6½ o'clock, we arrived at Langley, 24 miles from the mouth of the river, and 90 or 95 miles from Victoria. Langley contains about 400 people. We spent the first night on the steamer—which is, by the way, the first one that ever sailed in these waters. Her name is the *Beaver*, and she belongs to the Hudson's Bay Company. On Friday, 4th March, we purchased a canoe from the Indians, and spent Saturday in making a *tent* to use on our way up the river. We sewed at it till late at night, and I am sure if you had seen us you would have considered us in the succession of St. Paul. On Sunday, 6th of March, Dr. Evans preached in the H. B. Co's. Fort at 10½ A. M., and I in the barracks at 4 P.M. His Excellency Lieut. Gov. Moody was at the latter service, with some other Government and military officers.

On Monday, 7th of March, we left Langley for this place, which is 60 or 65 miles distant. We "paddled our own canoe," carrying our tent and provis-

ions with us. We arrived here on Friday at 11 A. M. There are a great many rapids on the river, which makes the trip a very hard one. At some places we had to wade in the water, and tow our canoe with a line. Our provisions also failed us, and we had to purchase potatoes from the natives, which we cooked in our tea-pot. We begged some flour from a boat, which we baked by our camp fire at 11 o'clock at night. Of course, the *bread* was of the *first quality*.

These are some of the amusing features of our journeying on the Fraser. I spent Sunday, 13th of March, in Hope, where I preached twice. Dr. E. and Mr. Pidwell went up in the canoe to Yale, 15 miles above Hope. There the Doctor preached twice on Sunday. On Tuesday, March 15th, Dr. E. and Mr. P. left for Victoria, and I remained here to travel this circuit.

There are about 300 people in Hope, and 400 in Yale. Hope is a pleasant, quiet place. Below Hope there are several "bars," viz: "Fargo's Bar," half way from Langley; "Henderson's Bar," 8 miles below Hope; "Sailor's Bar," "Prospect Bar," "Cornish Bar," &c. But the miners have nearly all gone from these bars to the "upper country." Those who remain earn about \$5 per day on an average. Between Hope and Yale there are a number of bars,—"Mosquito Bar," "American Bar," "Puget Sound Bar," "Victoria Bar," "Texas Bar," "China Bar," "Hill's Bar," "Emery's Bar." On some of these there are but few miners. They have also left for the "upper country." American, Puget Sound, and Victoria Bars are joining each other,

and upon them there are 250 or 300 men; among whom are 60 or 80 Chinamen. There are some bars on the river above Yale also, but I have not yet been upon them. My circuit—or that part of it which I supply—consists of Hope, Yale, and the intermediate bars. I get an Indian with me in my canoe on Saturday, and go up to Yale, when I preach at 11 A. M.; then come down 10 miles in a canoe to Puget Sound, where I preach at 3 P. M.; then come to Hope 5 miles farther, when I preach at 7 P. M. On the river between this place and Yale there are some bad rapids. The common boats generally make portages, but when I have a good Indian I can go up or down in our canoe—which by the way, I have fitted up and painted, so that it is the most beautiful craft on the river. It carries three men nicely. We have called it the “Wesleyan.”

The congregation in Hope is pretty good, on the bar still better, and at Yale it is not yet what it should be. The two last Sundays, His Honor, the Chief Justice of British Columbia has been at Yale, and with his officers has made part of the congregation.

I have visited a great many of the miners in their cabins, and at their work on nearly all the bars in the vicinity, and can say from experience, that they are a superior class of men. They are generally well-educated and intelligent, full of energy, and kind-hearted. I am quite at home with them. Their greatest sins (or most common) are swearing and Sabbath breaking.

You would be delighted to see some of them at preaching in their rough clothing and long beards. But many a tear and earnest face has already shown that they have not yet forgotten the good things learned at home. I believe God is working on many hearts already, and I do hope good is being accomplished, though I have not had the pleasure of seeing any actual conversions. I purpose to visit them as much as I can, and try to get a Sabbath reform among the miners and merchants; for Sabbath is now the great trading day. The miners seldom work at the mines, but make it a rule to go to market on the Sabbath. The boatmen on the river—who are numerous—have no Sabbath. Could I get a reform

on this point, the meetings would be better attended.

Soon after I came up here I commenced keeping “bachelor’s hall,” which is the almost universal mode of living on the Fraser. The reason for my doing this was certainly not that I preferred that mode of life, but because I could not get board for less than \$14 per week.

The other morning as I came in from the woods—where I had been getting timber for a pair of oars for my canoe—a gentleman put into my hands a subscription paper containing the following:—

“We, the undersigned residents of the Town of Fort Hope, British Columbia, being desirous of furthering the views of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, do hereby agree to contribute the amounts placed opposite our respective names to secure to the Rev. E. Robson more comfortable accommodations during his stay in Fort Hope.

“Signed,—John D. B. Ogilvy, \$25, (H. B. Co.’s Factor); Robert T. Smith, \$10, (Justice of Peace); W. H. Ladner, \$5, (Bailiff); F. D. McDougall, \$5, (Postmaster); John Huntoon, \$5; James Edney, \$2 50; John Thomas, \$5; S. L. Tilley, \$5—Merchants. Total \$62 50.” (which were enclosed.)

In accordance with the above, I have changed my place of residence. I now board with a Mr. Gray, who has here his good lady and seven children. They are a very fine family. We have the good old *family altar*, and the comforts of civilized life as far as the place will afford them.

As to the general aspect of things in this colony, I may here say, that I believe British Columbia is to be one of the best colonies in the British Empire. The land on the Fraser below here is generally mountainous, but where it can be cultivated, it produces very good crops. Forty miles back from the river there is a fine, warm, open country of the best farming land, wooded and clear. When you go up the Fraser to the region of Thompson’s River and Bridge River you come into a country where there is any amount of beautiful rich land. The climate is so mild that hundreds of cattle feed in the plains all winter. I have this information from Mr. Ogilvy, who has

been all through the country many times. The Fraser from Langley, or 20 miles at this side of Langley, to Thompson's River, runs through the Coast or Cascade range of mountains, most of which are very high. This range, as you are aware, runs parallel with the Rocky mountains, or nearly so. It is between the Cascades and Rocky mountains that the finest land is situated. It is drained by the upper part of the Columbia River, the Fraser, Thompson River, and Bridge River. The shortest way to reach it would be to go up the Columbia River, which is settled a great part of the way, and navigated by steamers. But above the steamer navigation the Indians are troublesome, so that the safest way is by the Fraser. The distance from Yale to the Thompson River is about 65 or 70 miles, from there to the Fountain (La Fontaine) is about 60 or 65 miles; from there to Bridge River 12 or 15 miles. At all these places there are settlements: at Thompson River there are 4 or 500 men. The miners up in that region and above it, are doing well. *The best fields of gold ever discovered are in that region* as far as I can learn by the best authority, and I see men almost every day who are coming from the mines to take up more provisions. Two of these were here this week who had each 50 lbs. of gold dust worth \$16 per ounce!

If what "everybody says is true," there will be a great quantity of gold taken out of the upper country this summer. One of the Government officers told me that 297 boats had passed Yale in five weeks for the mines above. I see them pass here every day.

The only thing we want to make this country *permanently great* is a farming population. If the land was all thrown open for settlement, and parties were secured in the right of purchasing their lots on which they have settled, when they do come into market, there are many who would at once commence farming at every point on these rivers, and others become permanent settlers. They would become wealthy in a few years, as they would find a ready market for every thing at their door. I only wish that we had a hundred of our enterprising Canadian farmers with some capital, who could settle on the

upper Fraser. They would be a great blessing to the country, and could make their families as comfortable as in Canada.

I believe it is intended that Mr. White shall come up in a few weeks to take charge of this circuit, and build a house for his family in Hope.

Probably Dr. Evans and I will then make a tour in the "Wesleyan" through all the Upper Country. Some one of our number will be settled,—i. e. travel—in that part of the Colony. In all probability it will be myself.

Upon the whole I am encouraged to hope that during the coming season much good will be effected through the labours of your Missionaries in both Colonies.

I do trust that a way will be opened to the *Indian* part of the population very soon. The Romish Missionaries have been through all these regions, and most of the Indians have learned to cross themselves, and point upw. rds. in reverence to some Being there, but this is about all they know of religion.—Some of them, however, have been heard humming some of our old tunes such as "Coronation." I suppose they have been carried over the Rocky Mountains from our Missions on the East side. Oh that it were in our power to raise them from their degraded condition! rendered worse by their contact with the "pale-faced christians." (or the "Boston Men," as they are called by the natives here). You may daily see the Indians drunk, playing cards, and hear them occasionally cursing. These are the accompaniments of civilization, and these *lessons* from the ungodly white-men will greatly retard the work of the Missionaries for years to come. May God open the way! else rum—which is here by adulteration made a two-fold poison—will have hundreds of these poor wretched beings down to a premature grave! It is true there is a stringent law against the sale of intoxicating drinks to the Indians, but who is to guard the boat-men and rum-peddlers on a river like this? And while I speak upon this point let me say that of all the cases of fighting, murder, and capsizing of boats—by which scores of men have been lost—there are scarcely any but what may be traced to rum to be the cause,

In the villages on the river drunkenness, gambling, sabbath-breaking, and swearing are very common.

The Indians on the river are quite peaceable, and in very many instances assist the miners by acting as pilots or paddlemen. Indeed, in almost every trouble with the Indians the white-men were the aggressors.

Many of the miners here are from California, and entertain the California notion, that Indians, Negroes, and Chinamen may be treated like dogs.—By the way, there are now some hundreds of Chinamen in the mines, and more are coming every day.

Could we not have a Missionary who would devote himself to them, learn their language, and teach them in their cabins? They are an industrious, quiet class of men, and I am sure that we could do them as much good here in British Colonies, and under British Government, having free access to them, as the missionaries in China, who are obstructed in their labours by laws, castes, family influences, and native priests.

In some places here there are forty or fifty of them within quarter of a mile of each other, and many of them speak broken English—but their English is a *commercial* language, and would not do for *theology*. A Missionary could easily get instruction from them in their own tongue. There will probably be many thousands of them in the Colony this summer. Oh that we could see many of them converted to God!—and then they would go from here back to their Native Land as Missionaries to their fellow-country men—while they would convey home their “pile” of gold, they would also have wherewith to bless their neighbours and friends, something “better than rubies.” But my letter is four times its intended length. I hope to have the pleasure of receiving a letter from you soon.

I trust our friends in Canada still continue to pray earnestly for the success of the Gospel preached by us. We have discouragements and difficulties with which to contend, but by the Divine blessing we shall succeed.

CANADA.—BOBCAYGEON.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. John A. Dowler, dated April 22nd, 1859.

As I know you take a lively interest in the spiritual welfare of destitute settlers, I think it my duty to give you some information respecting the state of many, who during the past year, have left the older settled parts of this county, and gone back into a new country, which the Government is opening up to the north of this place. A new road is made from this village for about thirty miles, and is to be continued through the new country several miles farther. Thirteen or fourteen townships are filling up with inhabitants faster than they can be surveyed.

The principal part of the settlers are Protestants, and some of them Methodists. I have looked with anxiety on scores of families passing through this village bound for the new country, and thought who will care for their souls?

I could not take time from my regular work, to preach in the new country more than twice on the Sabbath day

during the year. On one occasion, after preaching to a number who assembled in a new school-house, built about thirty miles from here in the new country, where there never was a sermon preached previous to that time, I called for a show of hands in favour of having a young man [Missionary], sent among them next year, and it was universal. The door is open for extensive usefulness, if the men and the means can be obtained.

I need not point out to you the advantage and necessity of occupying new townships at once; or being the first on the ground. The young men who travelled, as your missionaries, in the west, during the past few years, though exposed to many and untold privations, experienced the advantage of being the first messengers of the Cross, who entered the lonely dwellings of the new settlers; and to this very fact may be attributed a share of their success.

The agents of spirituous liquors are endeavouring to secure every important post for the purpose of erecting their hotel signs; and shall not the standard of the cross be erected before the people grow matured in vice? I believe there are more than a thousand persons gone back into this new country, who have no one to care for their souls. And will not our own Missionary Church do something to save those lonely settlers?

There are many difficulties in the way of establishing Methodism in this place, arising principally from the length of time it has been settled without being taken into the number of your domestic missions. Brother James Ash, the first who was sent here by the Wesleyan Conference, laboured to good effect in

removing some of these difficulties, and in gathering persons into the Church, but did not secure any church property. This year we succeeded in securing three building sites, consisting of two half acre lots, and a small village lot. One of these half an acre lot in the village of Bobcaygeon, on which we have built a respectable parsonage and stable; and on other, situated about eight miles from here, the side-walls of a church are built, and we expect to have it ready for use immediately after Conference. More than 20 persons professed conversion during the year, and three new classes have been organized, so that we are making slow but certain progress. All praise to our gracious Lord for all his blessings!

DEVONSHIRE.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. W. Dignam, dated May 13th, 1859.

In starting for District Meeting to-day, I thought I ought not to leave before informing you of our remarkable prosperity in Devon, (a place where for many years our Church has had but little interest. Supposing you are in the *Conference hurry*, I will try to abbreviate. Last year missionary money was upwards of £30, this year I think it will be upwards of £60; no reflection on my predecessor, but thanks to God, who gave us 132 of increase at three appointments. By the aid of a willing and excellent colleague we spent upwards of six months in extra efforts. Of course many of them are young—32 in one Sabbath School, and 14 in another, but they are old enough to sing "Hosannah to the Son of David." We painted the parsonage—closed in a stable—have done some fencing round the garden—dedicated a house in poor McGillivray, and paid off the debt, and got a stove—without any foreign aid

from friends. One Branch that paid £1 last year, has paid £13 6s, this year; but alas! one branch sent in about £10 of missionary money, and and 5s of quarterage. I have been frequently told that my unbounded zeal in the missionary department operates banefully on my own interests. I cannot help this, except I reorganize and put in ladies for stewards and leaders, and put in the *masculine* for missionary collectors.

Think of the above from a township that had to deal out 500 dollars this spring to needy applicants, at the small moiety of 15s per applicant, and had not enough. Tight living here, thirty miles from market, and *ten of a family*. Last year McGillivray was worked alone and they paid the Missionary £12 10, and the missionary paid £10 for board; yet here two houses of worship have been dedicated. We will want a small balance on our board.

MICHIPICOTON.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. James Ashquabe, dated March 3rd, 1859.

I am happy to learn what you have done for us; do all your ability for the School and Meeting House in this place. We also offer thanks to our God and Saviour for the Camp-meeting on

Lake Superior which we have long expected for the benefit of the poor Indians. My prayer is, may God give his blessing to every poor sinner in this place. We are trying to do the best

we can here, although the Indians are not at home, but only few families; but hoping next year most of them will remain home. We have some more conversions within a few months,—a family which was an enemy to us once—and now joins with us in our church. We hope to see a great revival here next summer.

I have not been idle this winter. I have tried to do all I can in my own labouring towards the Church. I have already hewed the square timber which is required for the church, from 24 by 32 feet long, and I have borrowed some provisions from the Fort, which I require, to give the Indians on my own

account, to cut out 110 logs for the church. I do this because they wont have time to do it in the summer.

I hope this will be settled some way to make it all right; also have cleared the land for a good crop of potatoes, and the place where the church will stand.

The Chief is not here at present, but hope that he will be here soon. The winter is very hard on us here; snow five feet and a half. Some Indians have starved to death; two of Dacom's sons were starved to death, and one child; they came here, and just saved the old man and his two other sons and wife.

THE NEW COLONY.

The following most gratifying extract of a Letter from his Excellency, Lieutenant-Governor Moody, R. E., Victoria, Vancouver's Island, was communicated by the Chairman of a recent Committee meeting of the British Evangelical Alliance, and is taken from the last number of "*Evangelical Christendom.*" It is an able and refreshing production, worthy of a Christian and British Ruler, and confirmatory of our conviction, that the social and religious condition of British Columbia will be eminently promoted by the wisdom, dignity, and catholicity of his administration:—

"—— will have told you all the news about my going up the interior to put down an incipient rebellion. Oh! it is wonderful how our Heavenly Father smooths the path of those who trust in Him, and pray for wisdom and judgment through our Lord. The delightful privilege of being the first to offer up the prayers of our Church in British Columbia was granted to me. I assembled all in the Court-house at Fort Gate on Sunday morning—Judge Begbie my clerk; the room filled with grim miners, old and young. Many knelt in prayer, and afterwards I addressed to them a few earnest words from my very heart, God giving me utterance, telling them how glad I was that our first meeting was for assembling to worship God together, and most fervently blessed them, and prayed God to prosper their labours. Fine, sturdy, bearded men, impulsive, and too often reckless, armed to the teeth with loaded revolvers and bowie knives; who can tell how much bloodshed this averted! Afterwards, when a few foolish men forced stronger measures on me, all was put down quietly. They found that I could be resolute, calmly determined

as a soldier, as well as full of real love towards them. The few bad ones immediately left the district ; it was no longer a place for them. Of the mass on Hill's Bar (bearing an evil character) they have assured me, through their leaders, that if ever I want *men* at my back for any purpose, I have only to send to Hill's Bar. As I went down the river, I stopped at the Bar, examined their work, entered the hut of their chief, met Mr. Gowan, who offered me refreshment in the shape of most excellent iced champagne, and he and I drank Her Majesty's health ; the first time I had drunk it in British Columbia. This was the man, it was confidently believed, I should have to shoot. The effect has been wonderful ! I only hope it may last. Now is the time to follow it up by missionary work. O for labourers—judicious, pious, brave men, who love the work, who disregard their bodies' ease, who stickle not for proper respect—for what is proper or becoming, but who are earnest in their work—who can sit on a log, warm up the hearts of their hearers, and on the banks of that most lovely river, cause the rocks and woodlands to resound with hymns of praise to our loving Father and His dear Son. I want to write to dear Sir Culling Eardley, but cannot manage it this time, I fear. Tell him you have heard from me, and tell him the fields are white indeed unto the harvest. Pray the Lord for reapers."

THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Anniversary of this Society, just held in London, has been an occasion of deep interest, and lofty and hallowed anticipations. The sermons, addresses, and prayers, were unusually impressive ; and the platform in Exeter Hall, and at the Breakfast Meeting for China, exhibited the manly affections of a Christian brotherhood. The unprecedented success of the past year is giving greater depth than ever to pious yearnings, and greater expansion to intercessions for the conversion of the world ; and the somewhat prophetic declaration of the venerable Dr. Raffles, that the income of the Society would before long be Two HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS, was hailed by the immense and highly excited auditory ; and all indications warrant the assurance, that God will more signally than ever make his work appear unto his servants in the lands of corrupt religions, infidelity, and heathenism.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—*The cordial thanks of the Missionary Board are presented to Mrs. H. Dixon, of Three Rivers, for a donation of £50 kindly given to aid in the erection of a Wesleyan Church in Victoria Vancouver's Island.*