

must eventually become the only text book of true efforts to elevate mankind. There never was a time when there was so much direct application of these Divine instructions, and there never was a time when men were so much inclined to study the Word for themselves and so little disposed to accept the conclusions of the wisest men as to scripture meaning, without a careful personal study of any passage that may be under discussion. Any such investigation furnishes new proof that this wonderful volume is for everybody. To the last of time and in all lands it will press its claims with as much fresh power and with as much special fitness to any present, as when its lines of fire first blazed from the pens of inspiration. Its influence in unreserved acceptance must increase until the day of final victory. With this growing faith in the Word as a message to mankind without distinction, will develop an unreserved acceptance of its mandates as the voice of universal authority.

The curse of God is pronounced upon any one who adds to or takes away from this Word—and why? Because all that God has to tell us is between its covers. When the last biblical amen is uttered Divinity has nothing more to say until the ending of this dispensation. If men are not saved by the application of its truth God Himself cannot save them. Oh, Lord, increase our faith in this golden voice that comes ringing down the centuries, and never sounded so strong, so sweet and so near, as while reverberating through the amplitudes of this most marvellous of all centuries. It is the only voice of real authority in temporal as well as spiritual affairs. Our secular law is effective for righteous purpose just to the extent that it stands upon a scripture foundation, and by accepting its every command as a Divine fiat, in individuals, communities and nations, we attain the highest possible standard.

When this is your Prayer it will be Answered.—In better realization of Divinity, you will be able to understand the language of the Godhead, because you will receive it according to the Divine intention. The Fatherhood beyond and above and yet permeating all included in our regenerated humanity, giving a full and tangible expression of changeless love, in the supreme gift, the incarnation of the Son of God. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life." The Brotherhood, which by mingling Divinity and humanity evolves a new race from its own eternal capabilities. By entering our existence He receives us into Himself—you will be actuated by His purposes and imbued with His intelligence, and consequently able to recognize the omnipotence that abides in every fiber of His humanity, and still hold fast to that manhood in which He presents Divinity to our need and understanding. Without the Son the Father is nothing beyond an indefinite theory. "No man cometh unto the Father but by me." The comrade Spirit: The answer to your prayer, shows that only by the ministry of the Spirit can we begin a true understanding of Father and Son. You will accept the comforter as your constant friend, and in this holy association you will swiftly grow in sacred knowledge until it will be said of you as it was of Stephen. "They were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake."

In better knowledge of mankind you will become the happy believer who goes among his brethren always looking for good qualities and always finding them. Thorough knowledge of our Christian acquaintances strengthens our faith in their honesty of purpose. This is one step towards the position where you will be able to obey the commands regarding forgiveness, or in relation to the practice of any other Christian virtue. You will thus approach the pattern as well as carry out the instruction of Him who is "the first born among many brethren." And with this healthy increase of faith in others you cannot help thinking better of God's work in yourself. You will believe in what He has done in you as you never believed before, and this will urge you onward into an understanding and practice of what Paul meant when he declared "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Then in every unsaved one, you will behold an opportunity to add a jewel to the Saviour's royal diadem and a star to your own crown. "Say not ye, there are yet four months and then cometh harvest; behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest." But the whole matter is included in a better understanding of the Word. If all your being responds with a glad amen to the declaration "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God," you will receive the Word as a universal communication from heaven to earth; and you will never question the perfect and perpetual authority conveyed in every utterance of the grand voice. Along this course we move in a circle of Bible study and approach the vast simplicity of the first Christians, who accepted the Word exactly as it reads. In this light there appears no true reason for the innumerable divisions that zig-zag their ways through Christianity. We ought to believe that in the fairer coming day these imperfections will disappear. Then all our force may be directed against the common enemy, and finally, after victories beyond the scope of our largest imagination, array itself as an army of welcome in the morning of the second advent. When the brush of imperial unity, with its marvellous painting, has covered the entire canvas of Christian sensibility, and the prayer of Jesus is granted, "That they all may be one; as thou Father art in me and I in thee, that they also may be one in us."

The Baptists of British Columbia and Their Work.

REV. W. E. STACKHOUSE.

There is perhaps no section of this great continent that is more prominently placed before the public mind at the present moment than the Province of British Columbia. Its extensive lumbering and fishing industries have long been recognized as enterprises of great value, and from which a vast amount of active capital has been put into circulation. But later years have shown that the mountain treasures of mineral wealth in this great province are simply boundless. The verdict of experienced business men and expert mining alike, is that we are only

operating on the fringe of the possibilities which the future will reveal. That the readers of The Pacific Baptist may better understand the importance that must be attached to an aggressive, evangelistic policy in pushing the claims of the gospel of Jesus Christ, I quote from a recent letter, which appeared in the Canadian Baptist, written by one of the ablest business men of Rossland, namely, Mr. J. B. McArthur, Q. C., (who by the way is a Baptist and deeply interested in the progress of our work in British Columbia). He said: "It is less than six years since I first saw and entered the mining regions of southern British Columbia. What a change I have seen in that time! Then not one shipping mine of either gold, silver, copper or lead in all that vast territory. Then not a mile of railway save 28 miles connecting the Columbia river route with Nelson, which was the only connection with the outside world, and that only for about seven months in the year. Then but two towns of any size, Nelson and Kaslo. Then a population of less than 8000 in the whole district. In everything and in all respects it was 'rough, raw and democratic.' What now? And we have only begun to scratch the top of the ground. The Silver Slocan alone has high 50 shipping mines. Last year it shipped nearly 18,000 tons of ore, of nearly \$4,000,000 in value. Rossland, which has been but developing its large gold mines, shipped over 10,000 tons, and in value \$3,000,000. Other camps in this great territory are being developed, and everywhere and all over new centers of population are being established. Now we have the Crow's Nest railway, extending from the eastern limit of Kootenay to the lake, a distance of 290 miles, opening up East Kootenay with its vast areas of coal and other minerals to development and settlement. Rossland and Nelson are now connected with the several American railway systems to the south, and with the Canadian Pacific to the north. The rich Slocan, with Kaslo, Sauton and New Denver as its chief centers, is likewise connected with each of these railway systems. In addition to Nelson and Kaslo, we have at least a dozen more places of great and rising importance. Rossland stands at the head of all in population and wealth, for the present at least. The population of southern British Columbia must be now nearly 30,000 at a very conservative estimate. The Columbia & Western railway will bring into new life and touch with the world the Boundary district, which in its riches and the extent of its ore deposits, will yet amaze the financial world by its enormous production and value. Great as Rossland is, and it is great beyond doubt, I believe this district known as Boundary, which has an area of about 50 miles square, will have seven or eight Rosslands within its bounds within seven years. I went to Rossland among the first hundred; today it claims over 7000 people, and that all within four years. The agents of the American railways tell me they estimate they will carry into Boundary district this year not less than 5000 persons, many of them from the states of Montana, Idaho and Washington, for permanent settlement. And yet we are only in the beginning of things out here." Now the facts as here presented by Mr. McArthur can have but one effect, and that is to inspire the Baptists of British Columbia with a sense of the importance of immediate and unflinching effort toward the establishment and perpetuity of the Master's work in this rapidly rising province.

It is not the writer's purpose to review the history of our Baptist work since the organization of the first Baptist church in the province. This would be interesting had we sufficient space. But our purpose is to prove that the Baptists are alive to their opportunity, by showing what has been done since the organization of their work as a province; also what is now being done, and what we hope by the grace of God to do in the near future. The first Baptist provincial organization known as the British Columbia Baptist Church Extension Society, was called into existence April 14, 1896, for the purpose of assisting the Home Mission Board of Western Washington and British Columbia in carrying forward the Master's work in the destitute sections of this province. During the existence of this society our financial agent, Rev. R. W. Trotter, visited Eastern Canada and collected for Baptist work in British Columbia the magnificent sum of \$4885, which was wisely expended in the furtherance of our home mission work. In the month of July of the year 1897, the British Columbia Baptist Church Extension Society was dissolved in the organization of the British Columbia Baptist Convention, which today has its various Home, Foreign, Educational and Woman's Boards for the extension of the Lord's work.

Up to date of the organization of the British Columbia Baptist Convention we formed a part of the Northwest Convention of Washington and British Columbia. We were also supported in our work by the American Baptist Home Mission Society, by whose counsel we proceeded to organize as an independent convention. The Home Mission Society had been untiring in its efforts for our work and had expended many thousand dollars in this province; but under the stress of heavy debt which threatened seriously not only the future progress, but the present arrangements of the Society it was deemed wise to ask the British Columbia brethren to undertake their own work; the result of which has clearly proved the

leadings of a Divine hand in the whole matter. Our American brethren have not only made us to stand on our feet, but have stood at our back to the amount of \$700.00 and \$500.00 for the two years ending October 1, 1898 and 1899 respectively, for the support of missionary pastors. Without multiplying words it is sufficient to say that this introduction and continuation of this ministry of love will not soon be forgotten by the early Baptists of British Columbia.

In order that all may fully comprehend the rapidity of growth in our Baptist work in this province, I call attention to the following comparative view of the situation, as it was four years ago, and as it is now. Four years ago there were but two Baptist pastors in British Columbia; today there are 12 pastors and one general missionary actively at work on the field; and there are three more pastors called by our three strongest churches. We may reasonably expect that by the date of our next convention we will have 16 ministers at work, if not more. Four years ago we had eight organized churches; today we have 14, with several missions that will doubtless soon merge into church organizations. Four years ago we had a Baptist membership of about 900; we now have a membership of 1300. Four years ago we raised for home missions in British Columbia \$243.00; last year we raised about \$1200 for home missions, besides the magnificent gift of Mr. J. B. Arthur to the Nelson church edifice of \$500. Altogether about \$2500 were expended in home mission work during our last Convention year. Four years ago the British Columbia churches raised \$83 for foreign missions; at our last Convention we pledged ourselves to raise \$700 for the year ending July 1, 1899. Four years ago we had no provincial organization; today we have a Convention well-organized and equipped for work and backed not only by the American Home Mission Society, but by the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, whose contributions to our work for the past two years have been large and timely. It will thus be seen from the foregoing that the Baptists of British Columbia have endeavored to make the best use of their time and their means, which has not been without tremendous sacrifice, as some of us can testify but which was gladly rendered. Never has the cause of the Lord been in better shape in this province, and never was the outlook for the future brighter than now. Rev. J. E. Coombs, late pastor at Colfax, Wash., has accepted the superintendency of home missions in British Columbia, and is vigorously pushing the work. Brother Coombs is a man of good ability and is characterized by untiring effort; and his work as an evangelist and financier for the Master's sake gives promise of a success that will doubtless exceed our largest expectations.

Our work, however, in this province is not without its difficulties, and the two greatest that we have experienced have been (a) lack of funds and (b) failure to secure men of experience and education who are willing to spend their energies in the mining camps of the interior. The intelligence of the people and the importance of the work is under-estimated by those who do not know the actual conditions of the field. In consideration of what might be done, and in the face of our failure to secure those whom we felt were qualified for this work, Rev. R. W. Trotter and the writer a short time ago resigned our churches on the coast where we were happily located and warmly supported by our people, and have come to this important work. We are here to be used as the Lord may direct. Brother Trotter has gone into the Boundary country to open up our work, where at the present time we have no Baptist church or mission. This means great sacrifice and much hard work, but a work that God will surely bless. Brethren Rose, of Nelson, and Sweet, of Trail, are doing noble work. They have recently come to this section of the province, and the grip they have taken of the situation, backed by the ability and consecrated manhood God has given them will certainly result in great glory to Jesus Christ and great advantage to the cause.

Our work on the coast is progressing rapidly. The missionary pastors are doing magnificent service, and several of our churches which hitherto have been weak are now looking toward self-support. We cannot predict the future success of our work in a more forcible manner than by saying that it is quite certain that four of our home mission churches will be self-supporting after July next, viz: New Westminster, Immanuel, Victoria, Nelson and Rossland. It is probable that Zion and Mount Pleasant churches, Vancouver, will soon follow. In closing, let me say a word about the present need. To prove that our work is only commencing, and that our future efforts must exceed the past if we are to keep pace with the demands of the field, I have only to state that in this province there are about forty towns with population ranging from 200 to 3000 each without a Baptist mission or missionary. And this does not include the Indian, Chinese and Japanese portions of the population. Nor does it cover the many country districts that ought to and must be cared for if we are to be true to the trust committed to us by our glorious Lord. We recognize the fact that the day is coming when we cannot appeal to the East for financial assistance with the same success as now. Already the American Home Mission Society has notified us that at expiration of present appropriations we must care for our own work so far as the society is concerned. This, however, at the present date we are not able to do; and so must look to Eastern Canada for the help that the churches there can give us. But the time will come when even these brethren will desire us to carry our own work alone, and hence we are now doing our best to develop our own resources as rapidly as possible that we may in some measure at least meet the increasing demands placed upon us. And in justice to our British Columbia churches I have this to say, that I have yet to find the convention of churches that has responded more liberally according to their ability than have our churches to the appeals for home missions. We have adopted a vigorous evangelistic policy; we have raised as our motto, "This Province for Christ," and have unaimously and unrepentingly entered our solemn protest against the incurring of church debts for all time to come.—(The Pacific Baptist).

Rossland, B. C.