

acquired over the Indian tribes inhabiting those regions, that we find on May 16, 1864, the newly appointed Governor of British Columbia appealing to the Fathers to co-operate with him in celebrating the Queen's Birthday in New Westminster, by assembling at that place the tribes under their spiritual jurisdiction on the 24th of that month. We will allow Father Gendre, to whom the Governor's application was first made, to describe in his own words this remarkable assemblage of Indians. "Having received the Governor's message, I saw that no time was to be lost in forwarding his invitation to the tribes that were encamped at a distance, in order to secure their presence on the appointed day in New Westminster. I despatched a chief to all the camps that lay within a radius of a hundred miles. In less than a week's time, notice was given to all that would come. Our Mission of St. Mary's was fixed as the place of rendezvous. The man fitted to take the lead on that occasion, and to organize those scattered bands into one disciplined army, Father Fouquet, was absent. He was then on the shores of Isle Charlotte. But here Providence came kindly to our help. One night he arrived unexpectedly, and notwithstanding his fatigue, put himself at once at the head of the movement. The 22nd of May was for us a day of much embarrassment and anxiety. It was no easy matter to drill some three thousand savages, and to marshal them all in good order, to embark on the Frazer, and to arrange so as to have all their canoes keep well

together on the river, until their arrival at New Westminster. Father Fouquet went before us to New Westminster, leaving the conducting of the numerous expedition in my hands. On the morning of the 23rd, I gave the signal for departure, and all launched their canoes on the waters of the Frazer. We paddled down the river until we arrived within a few miles of New Westminster. There we encamped for the night on the border of a great forest. The following morning, at an early hour, every body was on foot, and at the appointed signal, all knelt in prayer. It was a touching sight to behold that multitude of adoring Indians. Religion! how sublime and beautiful thou art! How thou ennoblest these poor children of the forest, now rallied around thy immortal standard! The arrival of Father Grandier, at the head of five hundred Indians, added to our numbers and to our joy. Father Fouquet also re-appeared upon the scene. Under his orders some seven hundred canoes are launched on the Frazer; sixty banners are unfurled, on which is emblazoned the Cross, the sign of Redemption. The Oarsmen's song is intoned by our Indian pupils of St. Mary's and taken up by three thousand and five hundred voices. The hills and forests gave back melodiously the echoes of this multitude of manly voices. They disembarked at a short distance from the residence of the Governor. His Excellency came in great state to meet them, accompanied by some of his principal officers. Addresses were