

When the Hudson's Bay Company established its trading-posts west of the Rocky Mountains, in 1824, it found numerous small tribes of aborigines on the lands bordering Puget Sound, and on the islands which dot that important inland sea. They had never come in contact with the whites except the early exploring expeditions of the Spaniards and English. They were all real flat-heads—except those held in bondage from infancy—and a hospitable and docile people, but steeped in pagan ignorance and barbarism.

The first missionary of any denomination who visited them was Very Rev. Francis Norbert Blanchet, then vicar-general to the Bishop of Quebec, but since Archbishop of Oregon. This was in the year 1840. He preached missions amongst them at Nisqually, Whidby's Island, Tulalip Bay and other important points. The Skagets were then a numerous tribe and the appointed their principal chief, Snetlam, a catechist, he having been previously instructed at Cowlitz Prairie, near Fort Vancouver. He was followed by Father Demers, afterwards Bishop of Vancouver's Island, and later, Father Bolduc, now a professor at Laval University, became their missionary.

In 1853 Washington Territory was separated from Oregon, and Governor Isaac I. Stevens made treaties with all the tribes. During the next few years they were gathered upon reservations in the vicinity of their old homes, namely: Snohomish or Tulalip, Swinamish, Lummi, Kitsap or Port Madison, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Puyallup, Shoalwater, Chehalis, Squaxi, S'Kokomish, and others.

During the terrible Indian wars of 1856 in the Oregon country, the missionaries of the Order of Oblates found themselves obliged to leave their missions among the Walla-Wallas, Yakimas and Cayuses, on account of the hostility of the volunteers, and they retired to Olympia, the capital of Washington Territory, which is situated on the lower end of Puget Sound. From this point the missionaries made frequent visits to all the tribes of the surrounding country. Having met with considerable success, and affairs in the Umatilla and Yakima countries re-