

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND,
NOVEMBER 6th, 1864.

GENTLEMEN :

Though I shall have the honor of presenting to you at no very distant period a full and systematic report, of the whole proceedings, discoveries and results of the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition, which you despatched under my command, yet in accordance with your desires I beg to submit a short outline forming with the detached notices and despatches which have already appeared in the local prints, a connected narrative of our labours.

On the 7th of June we left Victoria on board Her Majesty's Gunboat Grappler, nine in all. The same afternoon we arrived in Cowichan Harbour and the weather being very wet, we did not disembark until the next day, when we encamped on the opposite side of the river from the Indian Village of *Comicken*.

On the morning of the 9th I despatched the stores in charge of one of the party and two Indians, by canoe, to the highest village on the river *Samena*, while with the rest of the party I travelled over the trail on foot. This same evening on all being met together, I engaged *Kakulutza*, a chief of the tribe, and an Indian boy, to accompany us to the great Lake; at the same time I engaged a half-breed Iroquois and Chinook, *Toma Antoine*, as hunter and Cowichan interpreter to the expedition, a choice on which I have since had good reason to congratulate myself. For the first three weeks of the expedition I took him on sufferance, and finally on his good conduct being put to the test, I engaged his services for the whole period of the exploration.

Next morning we commenced our travels in earnest. I placed the whole of the provisions in the canoe with the two Indians, and two of our party, while the rest carrying their own effects, travelled by land, meeting the canoe at nights at appointed places, for which purpose we took *Toma* along with the land party, he having hunted along the banks previously. Occasionally we met to assist in making portages, or otherwise to aid each other; most frequently, the river