

pany, was, no doubt, to protect the whites from the dreaded violence of the Indians—to over-awe the natives, as we say, who, in those days were “Lords of all they surveyed,”—were inclined to be rebellious, and looked upon the white settlers as invaders of their prescriptive territorial rights. Previous to 1852 the whole of the Nanaimo country had only its aboriginal inhabitants, many of whom were impudent plunderers, yet stealthy foes, and as showing the hostile character they manifested, it may be stated that a short period after the date mentioned, they killed a white man at Cowichan while he was quietly pursuing his farm labor. For that treacherous act of murder, a Nanaimo Indian and a Cowichan Indian, who were guilty of the crime, were hung at Gallows Point, Protection Island, off Nanaimo Harbor. Mr. J. W. McKay was then the officer in charge of Nanaimo.

The original position of the Bastion was on the corner opposite, and to the westward of where it now stands, which is higher ground by many feet—in fact the highest point thereabout, commanding the entrance to Commercial Inlet where the first coal mine was opened. It had only a low stone foundation—not the high basement of rock which now supports it. It was removed to its present station, on the low side of the street, in 1891 for the reason that the owner of the lot, which in