

and brutal race, who, to their great misfortune, had come in contact with unscrupulous white traders before being visited by the ministers of the Gospel. The result was that the teachings of the missionaries fell upon deaf ears, and to this day, those poor children of the forest are lost alike to civilization and religion.

In the meantime Bishop Demers had taken steps to divide his immense diocese. It was his wish to erect the mainland into a separate vicariate, to be intrusted to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, reserving to himself the Island of Vancouver. This plan was approved by Pope Pius IX., who appointed Rev. Father d'Herbomez Vicar Apostolic, by bull dated the 14th of December, 1863. On the 9th of October, 1864, at Victoria, the Rev. Father d'Herbomez was consecrated Bishop of Melitopolis, an extinct Eastern See, and on the 16th of the same month he took possession of his vicariate by fixing his residence in New Westminster.

The acceptance of this extensive field of labor resulted in the Oblates concentrating all their efforts on the mainland. They had gradually to relinquish their missions on Vancouver Island to attend, as much as their limited means and numbers would permit, to the newly erected vicariate. Then St. Louis' College, founded in Victoria in 1863, transferred in 1866 its teaching staff to New Westminster, where it became, especially in the early days, an important factor in the education of the children of the white population.

The interior of British Columbia is a country traversed from north to south by one mountain range after another. On many of the peaks there is perpetual snow; in the north the winters are severe and the snow lies long in the valleys. In the 60's there