

PREFACE.

The writer was led to begin investigating the origin of names on the coast of British Columbia, through travelling for years, in command of the Canadian government ship *Quadra*, between the strait of Juan de Fuca and Dixon entrance. On these cruises he was often asked the names of geographical features, and the origin of those names. Notes made from time to time led to further investigation, the present volume being the result. As the work progressed, the fact was constantly brought out that it had not been begun too soon, as persons who possessed the required information regarding these names and their origin, were fast passing away.

The history of a country is often indicated by its names. Certainly this is true of the coast of British Columbia, where we find that with a few Indian exceptions, the earliest names are of Spanish origin, while those of later date are British; these last constituting the great majority and including the names of most of the settled communities. This fact agrees with the historical record. The Spaniards were the first to visit this coast, but contented themselves with its discovery; British adventurers were the first to fully appreciate its value, and determine to possess it. Thus the Spanish control gave way to British; the evidence of the presence of the former being now preserved only in the relatively few Spanish names that continue in use.

Strict accuracy has been aimed at, but is not claimed, in the work. The lapse of time since many of the names were given and the absence of contemporary record preclude absolute certainty, but, so far as it is possible, and especially where names are given in old books and charts, English and Spanish, all authorities have been carefully collated.

The rank of naval officers and the position held by others after whom places on this coast are named, are those held at the date of naming, and not those which may have been later attained.

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