

April 17th 1838.

My Rev. Fathers.

You must consider as the first object of your Mission to withdraw from barbarity and the disorders which it produces, the Indians scattered in that country.

Your second object is, to tender your services to the wicked Christians who have adopted there the vices of Indians, and live in licentiousness and the forgetfulness of their duties.

Persuaded that the preaching of the Gospel is the surest means of obtaining these happy results, you will lose no opportunity of inculcating its principles and maxims, either in your private conversations or public instructions.

In order to make yourselves sooner useful to the natives of the country where you are sent, you will apply yourselves, as soon as you arrive, to the study of the Indian languages, and will endeavor to reduce them to regular principles, so as to be able to publish a grammar after some years of residence there.

You will prepare for baptism, with all possible expedition, the infidel women who live in concubinage with Christians, in order to substitute lawful marriages for these irregular unions.

You will take a particular care of the Christian education of children, establishing for that purpose, schools and catechism classes in all the villages which you will have the occasion to visit.

In all the places remarkable either for their position or the passage of the voyagers, or the gathering of Indians, you will plant crosses, so as to take possession of those various places in the name of the Catholic religion. \* \* \*

Given at Quebec on the 17th of April, 1838.

✠ JOSEPH SIGNAY,  
Bishop of Quebec.

## SKETCH IV.

(PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 28TH 1878.)

JOURNEY OF THE MISSIONARIES FROM  
LACHINE TO FORT VANCOUVER.

ACCOMPANIED by chief trader Hargrave, Vicar General F. N. Blanchet embarked in one of the light bark canoes carrying the express of the Hudson Bay Company, leaving Montreal on Thursday, May 3rd 1838, reach-

ing Fort Vancouver on the 24th of the following November. The journey from Lachine to Red River (2,100 miles) was made in canoes, with occasional portages, in thirty-three days. The journey from Red River to the Rocky Mountains (2,025 miles) occupied eighty-four days, including detentions. The river route was made in eleven light barges and the land trip—occupying five days—was made on horseback. Horses were also used in making the tedious trip across the Rocky Mountains, from Jasper's House to Boat Encampment or Big Bend on the Columbia river. This trip occupied nine days, a band of seventy-two horses being provided for the use of the company. It took six days to make the ascent on the Eastern slope, and three days to descend to the plains on the Pacific side, but the missionaries were well repaid for the toils they underwent in the grandeur of the scenery that surrounded them at every step. The remainder of the journey, from Big Bend to Fort Vancouver (about 1,200 miles) was made in light boats down the Columbia river.

Vicar General Blanchet, having passed 35 days at Red River, took his departure in company with Rev. Modeste Demers on July 10th, stopping *en route* at Norway House and Forts Constant, Cumberland, Carleton, Pitt and Edmonton on the Saskatchewan, and Fort Assiniboine and Jasper's House on the Athabaska river. During this journey the missionaries baptized one hundred and twenty-two on the Eastern slope and fifty-three on the Western. After passing the summit of the Rocky Mountains the missionaries stopped at the House of the Lakes, and Forts Colville, O'Kanagan, and Walla Walla, at each of which immense crowds of Indians assembled in order to behold the *Black-gowns* whose presence they so long waited for. During this long and tedious trip the missionaries had the happiness of celebrating Mass and delivering an instruction every Sunday, and on every day at which they sojourned at the Forts on their route. By this means the consolations of our holy religion were bestowed on many Catholics who for years had been strangers to the presence of a priest.