

THE VANCOUVER ISLAND EXPLORATION COMMITTEE, in presenting to the public a Report of their proceedings, beg to give expression to their deep sense of the obligation under which the Colony is placed to His Excellency Governor Kennedy, as the originator of the Exploring Expedition, and to the subscribers and donors who have generously aided the Committee in the prosecution of the work confided to their management.

From the first settlement of the Colony, the desirability of a thorough knowledge of its resources has been felt, and various suggestions have from time to time been made and discussed, as to the best means for its acquirement, some of which never took any practical form. Some valuable information had been obtained through the unwearied zeal of Captain Richards, now Hydrographer of the Royal Navy, and of his laborious and talented subordinates, who in addition to the survey of the coast line, of such importance to our future commerce, furnished the geographical details of more than one line of land travel across the Island.

A premium of Fifty Pounds had been offered by the late Governor, Sir James Douglas, for an Essay "which should set forth in the clearest and most comprehensive manner the capabilities, resources and advantages of Vancouver Island, as a Colony for