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VICTORIA

FROM AN INDIAN VILLAGE TO A ROYAL CITY

(By Rev. Dr. Campbell.)

In early days the Indians of Vancouver Island built their villages on the most beautiful spots that could possibly be found. Victoria is built on the site of Camosun, an Indian village of the Songees tribe, the rallying centre of the wild head-hunters of the Pacific Coast.

It is a long step from the squalid huts and primitive wigwams of the savage aborigines of an Indian village to the fine homes and palatial residences of the Royal Capital of British Columbia.

Numerous are the tragedies rehearsed by the Indians in song and story which from time immemorial had been executed on the charming spot where now stands the "Queen of the West," the proud city of Victoria.

In 1843, just fifty years after Sir Alexander MacKenzie crossed the Rockies and reached the sea by way of the Peace River, Sir James Douglas, factor of the Hudson Bay Company, arrived in the "Beaver," the first

steamboat to sail on the Pacific Ocean, and erected a trading post at the inner harbor. He had many thrilling adventures and hairbreadth escapes from the painted savages. The fort, with its houses, palisades and bastions, was erected with wooden pegs, without a single iron nail or spike. When the fortress was about completed, the Songees Chief, the greatest and bravest man of the tribe, thus addressed a council of warriors: "We and our fathers have lived in happiness ages before these reptiles of strange tongues existed. We have eaten the fruits of the earth, bathed in the water of the sea, and basked in the sunshine of the sky. Are now all to be taken from us by these serpents? Let us drive the intruders back into the sea to be food for the sharks." A grunt of approval went around the council of dusky warriors. The fortress was attacked amidst yells that might terrify a host of hobgoblins and evil spirits. When the hail of spears and arrows ceased, Sir James Douglas, who expected the attack, addressed