

"We know that they converted about twelve thousand Indians, and Indians that will do honor to any civilized community, and who today are a credit to the missionaries of the Church. Not only did they convert this great number of natives, but also they practically solved the Indian question which to this day is puzzling the British authorities. These Fathers, I say, solved that question; but no one knows what it cost them in bearing the hardships and the sufferings of hunger and cold; no one will ever realize the humiliations to which they were subjected. They had to live the very life of the Indian, live in his hut, where they had to partake of his humble and uninviting fare. They had to travel thousands of miles by land and sea to convert these poor souls to God. It is wonderful, this work of the first pioneers of British Columbia! Thus we certainly have reason to bow down with respect before them, and to give them honor today as they deserve to be honored. We know the difficulties that often faced them, but they smiled defiance when these difficulties appeared. They put their trust in Almighty God, in His power and goodness, and in spite of every difficulty they laid the foundation of this great and glorious Church of British Columbia. It is these achievements that we honor today. When I recount this history, short as it is, yet so full of pious sentiments, and turn my gaze back to the Old Country, I say to myself: 'Surely these men deserve well of humanity.' Yet these saintly Religious are today receiving the heaviest blows of martyrdom and persecution. And we ask the reason why. Why, in the name of God, are these benefactors of humanity, the men who have done the most for the world, persecuted? Why is it that the world is so ungrateful?

"They are confiscating their property in utter violation of honor and justice. They may try in vain to conceal the motives lying at the back of it. They may try to con-