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REMINISCENCES  
OF  
THE WEST COAST OF  
VANCOUVER ISLAND

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By  
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## PREFACE

IN THE YEAR 1900 there appeared in the "Messenger of the Sacred Heart," New York, a series of Reminiscences of Rev. A. J. Brabant, the pioneer missionary of the west coast of Vancouver Island, under the title of "Vancouver Island and its Missions." The whole series of these Reminiscences were later on printed by the Editor of the Messenger in magazine form, and all the copies were given to Father Brabant for the benefit of his missions. When I succeeded Father Brabant in charge of the Hesquiat Missions in 1910, there were about 70 copies left. Some I gave away—others were sold. When there were no more left, applications for a copy from many persons used to come to me. This gave me the plan for the present volume. However, as I was busy in missionary work, and as the work among the Indians is very often connected with delays and loss of time and disappointments, I had neither time nor the necessary disposition to write, pushing off my intention to a more opportune time. In August of this year we celebrated at the Christie Indian Residential School amid a great concourse of Indians from all our Missions, the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the first mission at Hesquiat by the Rev. Father Brabant, in 1875; and the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Christie Indian Residential School to the Indian children in 1900. This event gave me a new impetus to republish Father Brabant's Reminiscences, with additions of some documents and other historical events. I confined myself in adding what had not been published before. Hence in my chapter of Nootka I only alluded to the Jewitt case, and omitted entirely the murdering of the crew of the ship Tonquin, and its subsequent blowing up with great loss of life, in Clayoquot Sound, because this has appeared in print\* times and again. Having made up my mind to go ahead I overcame my apathy in time of trials. There would be other interesting things to be told that are not told in this book. But all can not be told now for various reasons.

THE AUTHOR.

Christmas, 1925.

\*See H. Higgins' "The Passing of a Race"; also Meany's "Discovery of Puget Sound".



## CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE - - - - -	vii
CHAPTER I	
A Charter with Translation - - - - -	1
CHAPTER II	
Brabant's Reminiscences - - - - -	9
A. The Field of Labor	
B. 1874	
C. 1875-1900	
CHAPTER III	
A Deed of Property - - - - -	132
CHAPTER IV	
Haps and Mishaps - - - - -	133
CHAPTER V	
Father Nicolaye - - - - -	146
CHAPTER VI	
An Inventory - - - - -	151
CHAPTER VII	
Christie School - - - - -	154
CHAPTER VIII	
Priests on the Missions - - - - -	158
CHAPTER IX	
Historic Nootka - - - - -	160
CHAPTER X	
The Murder of Barney - - - - -	171
CHAPTER XI	
The Murder of the Kyuquot Chief - - - - -	176
CHAPTER XII	
The Murder of Shiyoush - - - - -	181
CHAPTER XIII	
Trader George - - - - -	184
CHAPTER XIV	
A Great War - - - - -	188
CHAPTER XV	
An Ahousat Story - - - - -	190
CHAPTER XVI - - - - -	192