AMONG THE AN-KO-ME-NUMS; OR, FLATHEAD TRIBES OF INDIANS OF THE PACIFIC COAST

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Among the An-ko-me-nums; or, Flathead tribes of Indians of the Pacific coast by Thomas Crosby

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THOMAS CROSBY

AMONG THE AN-KO-ME-NUMS; OR, FLATHEAD TRIBES OF INDIANS OF THE PACIFIC COAST



Among the An-ko-me-nums

Or Flathead Tribes of Indians of the Pacific Coast,

BY

REV. THOMAS CROSBY

Missionary to the Indians of British Columbia.



TORONTO WILLIAM BRIGGS 1907

INTRODUCTION.

I HAVE been requested to write a few words of introduction to this deeply interesting volume, and I gladly comply, although the task may seem to be quite superfluous. Thomas Crosby, or anything he may write, needs no introduction, at least in Methodist circles. For a generation his name has been a household word, and from time to time brief accounts of his heroic labors have found their way through the press into many homes. But these accounts were fragmentary and incomplete. presented some striking incidents, but no connected story of the man and his work. Such a story Crosby alone could supply, and many will be glad that he has been induced to begin it; and the hope will be general that other volumes may follow, covering what is by far the most interesting period of his life.

It is but seldom that men who lay the foundations of empire get credit for the achievement. Their work, for the most part, is done underground and out of sight. They are content to take up the work that lies nearest, leaving results with God, and are more concerned about doing their work faithfully than claiming credit for themselves. And yet all the while they are laying the only foundations on

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INTRODUCTION.

which an enduring civilization can rest, and are better entitled to the name and fame of empirebuilders than some who have claimed the credit without doing the work. If it be true that he is a benefactor of his race who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before, much more is he a benefactor whose spiritual husbandry transforms a savage into a citizen—a pagan into a saint.

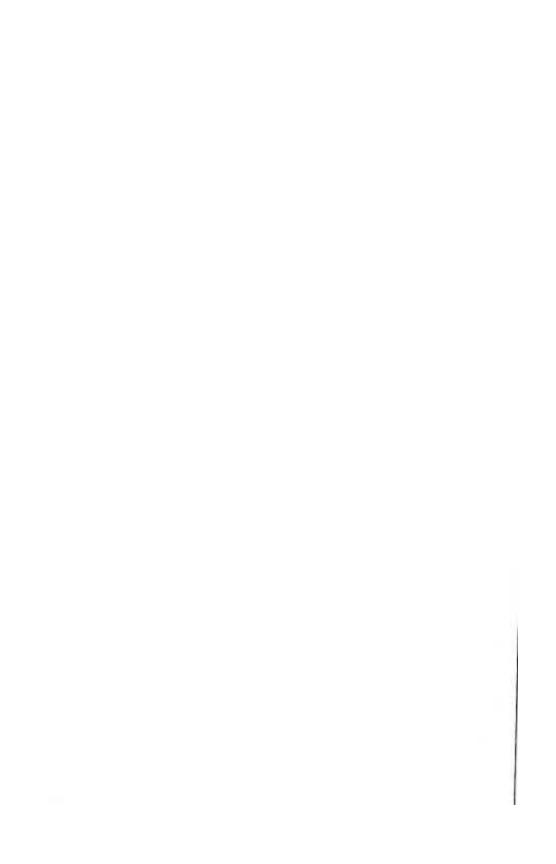
A conflict like that in which Thomas Crosby spent his life was no mere holiday parade. It was a grapple to the death with the powers of evil, in which no quarter was asked or given. He gave his life for the redemption of a people for whose souls no man cared, and fought-sometimes almost single-handed—a life-long battle against superstition, immorality, and godlessness of every kind. No marvel, therefore, if he incurred the bitter enmity of the witch-doctor, the whiskey-trader, and the libertine, and by "lewd fellows of the baser sort" was the best-hated man in British Columbia. But he has his reward. By the converting grace of God some bitter foes were transformed into ardent friends; and as he searched society's rubbish-heaps for lost jewels, here and there he found a pearl of great price that more than compensated for all his toil. Many will join in the prayer that years of useful service may still be his, and that his declining years may be brightened by further displays of saving power among the Red Men of the Pacific Coast.

A. SUTHERLAND.

TORONTO, February, 1907.

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