

"The ambitions of the little colony were well expressed in the name they gave their settlement, New York. Later, as the small group of cabins grew very slowly, they added to the name a hyphen, and the word Alki, taken from the native tongue. And still later, when the main settlement moved to the shelter of Elliott bay, and the original group of cabins failed to grow more numerous, the first portion of the name 'New York-Alki' was dropped, leaving only the rather appropriate Indian title, Alki, which means 'by and by.'"

Prof. Meany went on to tell of the removal to Seattle's present site, of the first visits of Chief Seattle and his tribesmen to the little band of whites, of his friendship for the settlers both in time of peace and when they were attacked by hostile tribes. He recounted the naming of Seattle after the chief, after much argument with the warrior himself, who was persuaded to forego the old Indian belief that when a man died, if his name thereafter was mentioned, he turned over in his grave.

"Chief Seattle," said Prof. Meany, was born about 1786, and died in 1866, at the age of 80. He was a little, black-eyed lad of 6 in the year when the first white man, George Vancouver, sailed a ship into Puget Sound, and anchored in the bay about which Seattle now stands. He saw then for the first time the strange canoes and the strange people with white faces, and perhaps he learned from the kindness and the honesty of the great explorer, that love and loyalty for the white race which were so significant in his later life.

"Seattle was a man of 65, grown to the height of his great power as leading chief of seven Northwestern tribes, when Arthur Denny and the group of white settlers landed at Alki point in 1851. Though a fearless warrior, his power had been largely acquired by his gift of oratory, and he ranked as a great leader of his race.

"The hand of a Seattle sculptor has given us the beautiful bronze figure of this chieftain which we are gathered to unveil. Behind that hand is fifty centuries of our civilization, the whole progress of the civilized world, its statesmen and its students and its artists. But behind the Indian himself, whose loyalty we praise, was nothing but the deepness of the sea, the wilderness of the forests, the howl of the wolf and the scream of the eagle.

"Born in the heart of savagery, schooled in the learning of the ocean and the religion of the fir-clad hills, this man has given to us an heritage of loyalty, of truth and of friendship, which we prize today. And I think that on this, our Founders' day, we should teach our sons and our daughters to go upon their knees in tribute to the spirit of the man, Seattle, in tribute to his truth, his loyalty and courage. May that