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THE FOUNDING OF ST. FRANCOIS MISSION

By LEO E. COTTONOIR, Chemawa Student

In 1837, after sixteen years of service with the Hudson Bay Co., Simon Plomonden asked to be granted some land in order that he might settle down. The Company officials told him if he could find a suitable place they would give him enough of the land on which to have a home and make a living.

Mr. Plomonden, with two canoes and two men, then started up the Cowlitz river in search of a suitable place. Upon reaching what is now Toledo he saw a broad, flat prairie which to him looked like an ideal homesite.

While looking over this prairie he came upon an Indian village, and thinking them friendly he went up to one of the huts in hopes of seeing the Chief in order that he might win his friendship and get permission to settle. To his great surprise, he and his companions were taken prisoners. After holding many counsels and dances the Indians decided to kill the white men, but later they changed their minds and Mr. Plomonden became a very good friend of the Chief.

About a year later Mr. Plomonden asked permission to return to Fort Vancouver. The Chief thought it over and replied: "I will let you go if you will first marry my daughter, and return before the next full moon." The Chief also gave him to understand that if he refused he would not be allowed either to build himself a home or to return to Fort Vancouver to see his old friends.

Mr. Plomonden didn't like the idea, although he had often secretly admired this beautiful Indian maiden who reflected the dignity of being a Chieftain's daughter. However, he consented to the old Chief's plan as the next best thing to do, so they were married.

Upon his return to Fort Vancouver, Mr. Plomonden bought tools with which to build a house, guns and ammunition. Since most of his time was spent in traveling he could not stay very long at the Fort, for he had to return to save himself from the Chief's anger. While he was scurrying around collecting supplies he told the story of his wedding to the people at the fort. All thought it very interesting and romantic.

When Mr. Plomonden returned to the Indian village he took six more men, one being a missionary, to

teach the Indians "Christianity." After six years these men all had homes built. They also had built a Mission for the carrying on of their religion and for the Indians. All the houses and the Mission were built of logs taken from a near-by forest and hewn with broad axes.

White people moved into the Cowlitz River region rapidly, after finding out there was rich and fertile land inhabited only by friendly Indians and a few white men.

Soon the trading posts grew into towns and the towns into cities. On the present site of the first log cabin mission stands a large Catholic Mission School, St. Francois Mission, that no doubt had its beginning in the desire of the old Indian Chief to marry his daughter to a white man.

MY DUTY

By BERNICE BLAKESLEE, Chemawa Student

Education, as I understand it, is equipping one-self for life through study and experience. It means growing in every way as long as one is living and able to adapt ones-self to other people and all surroundings.

I realize I must some day be independent, take care of myself and not be a burden on society. I owe the Government the very best that I can do. In my school work I have tried different industrial occupations and know something about all of them, but I find I'd like a business career better than anything else. This shall be my vocation.

Before I begin stenography I must have a foundation of good English and be able to spell correctly. My high school work will fit me for that before I enter a school for a business course. I imagine myself graduated and hunting a job. I enter a business office, where I apply personally. I can, right then, feel the manager's eyes searching me for neatness and refinement.

The first questions are, "Did you finish high school?" "Do you have a diploma?" I shall be so happy to frankly reply, "Yes," for I know he is sure to investigate my answers. The next will be, "Can you furnish references?" To this I shall have to reply, "Only my teachers and my record," and if I have done my duty in school I need not fear either.

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