

Early Vancouver

Volume Three

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Narrative of Pioneers of Vancouver, BC Collected During 1933-1934.

Supplemental to Volumes One and Two collected in 1931-1932.

About the 2011 Edition

The 2011 edition is a transcription of the original work collected and published by Major Matthews. Handwritten marginalia and corrections Matthews made to his text over the years have been incorporated and some typographical errors have been corrected, but no other editorial work has been undertaken. The edition and its online presentation was produced by the City of Vancouver Archives to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the City's founding. The project was made possible by funding from the Vancouver Historical Society.

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INDIAN BURIAL.

There are a good many stories told about Scotsmen, but I doubt if you ever heard this one.

It happened up north; an Indian had died, and there was no priest available. A Protestant whiteman interested himself in the burial arrangements, and wanted to give the Indian as decent a burial as circumstances permitted. As you know, the Roman Catholics burial service is spoken in Latin, so the Protestant whiteman was in a bit of a quandary; he could not speak Latin; he consulted a friend, a Scotchman, and enquired if he could speak Latin. The Scotchman could not, "But," he said, "I can speak Gaelic; and," he added, "if it won't do him any good, it won't do him" (the Indian) "any harm."

So the burial service was spoken in Gaelic, and the Indians not the wiser, and thoroughly satisfied it was done as it should be done.

CLERICAL REPARTEE.

There was a Roman Catholic priest and a Methodist clergyman who used to ride from Eburne to New Westminster together for company. One of them had a wild, spirited horse, and did not like him; so they exchanged. Some time after the Roman Catholic's horse—whichever it was—died, and the next time they met, the priest remarked upon his ill fortune in losing his horse, and the circumstances of it. Then the following conversation took place:

Methodist clergyman: (jokingly) "I suppose you saw to it that his soul got through purgatory all right."

Roman Catholic priest: "No, before he died he turned Methodist, so I let him go to hell."