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TO

BRITISH COLUMBIA

AND

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

WITH

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SHOWING

THE GOLD AND COAL FIELDS.

CONSTRUCTED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES, BY

JOHN DOWER, F.R.G.S.

1858?

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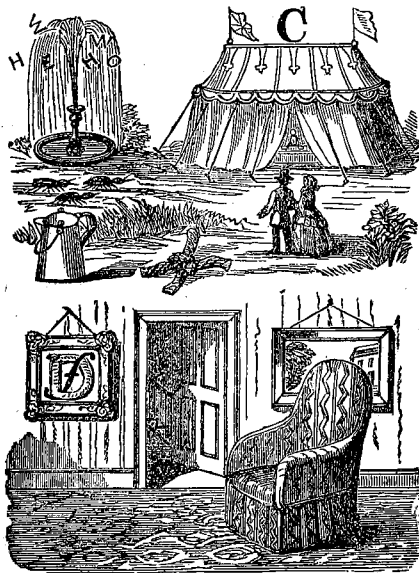
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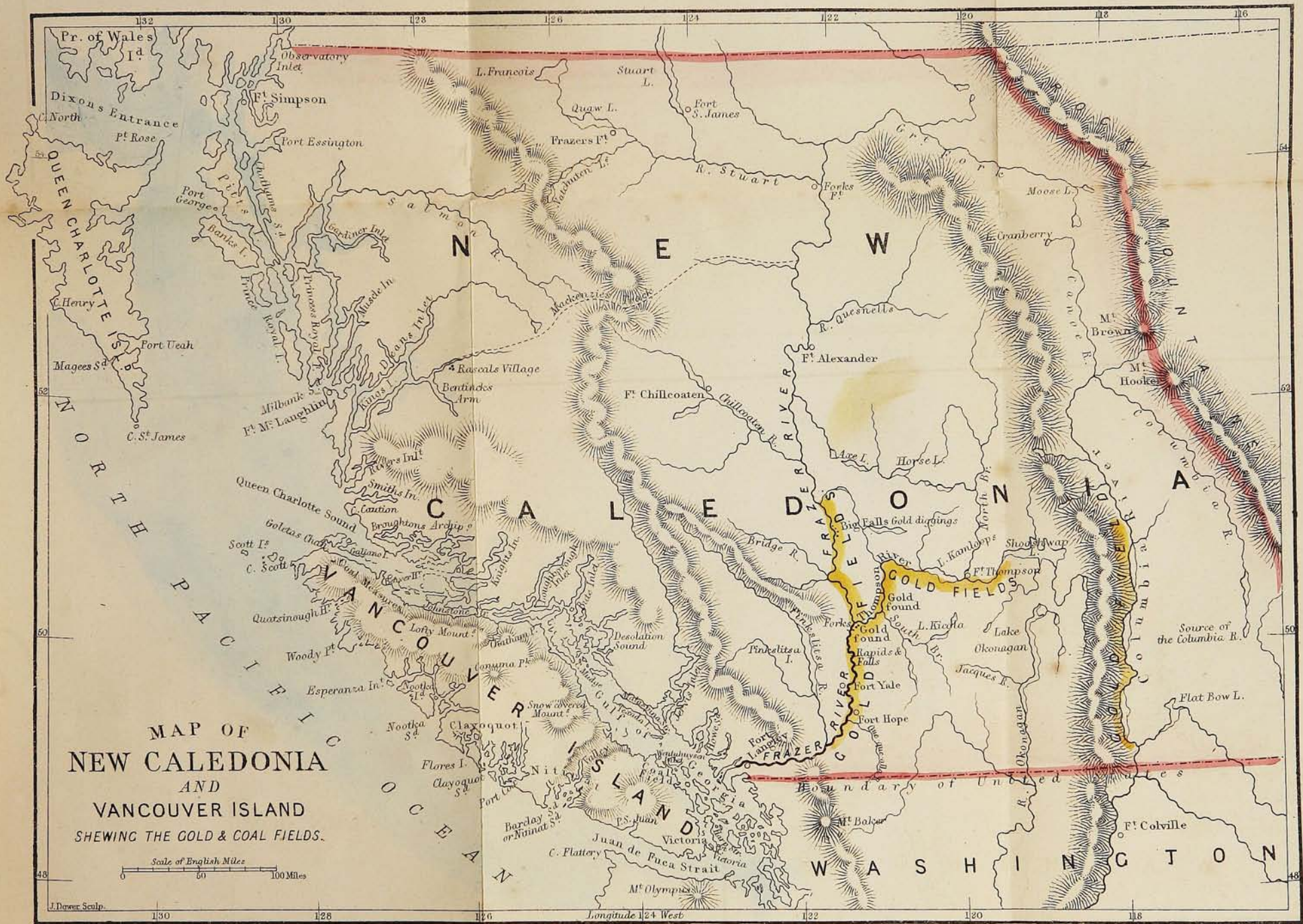
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CONTENTS.

GEOGRAPHICAL position—Discovery of Nootka Sound by Captain Cook—Voyage of Vancouver—Expeditions of Fur Traders—Establishment of Pacific and North-West Companies, and subsequent Amalgamation with Hudson's Bay Company—Their Constitution and Policy—Cession of Vancouver Island to the Company—Ultimate Resumption of the Soil by the Crown—Future Government—Physical Aspects of the Island—Fertility of the Soil—Testimony of Lieut.-Colonel Grant—Unusual Facilities for Colonisation—Mildness of the Climate—Interesting Sketch of the Aborigines—Natural History—Statistics of Trade—Description of the Mainland—The Gold Regions—Speech of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton—Official Statement—Interesting Details communicated by private Individuals—The Chemistry and Geology of Gold—Various Means of testing it—How to reach the Diggings—The two Routes—Passage Money and Outfit—List of Requisites for the Journey—Easiest and Cheapest Mode of procuring them—Extracts.

NOTE.

Just as we were about proceeding to press, the intention of the government to change the name of the colony, in deference to the wishes of Her Majesty, was officially announced. In order to avoid the delay necessary for its alteration, we have deemed it advisable to request that, in the following pages, "New Caledonia" may be read "British Columbia" throughout.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

AND

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

As it would appear an act of supererogation to dilate at any length upon the vast public benefits likely to accrue from the discovery of this new El Dorado, it is our intention to abstain from the discussion of any abstract questions relating to it, in order that the following pages may be found to partake of an eminently practical character. We shall endeavour to furnish our readers with a comprehensive and minute description of the natural aspects and physical peculiarities of the country, collated from the most reliable authorities, and preceded by a brief historical sketch of the circumstances attending its early discovery; and, finally, to indicate the readiest and cheapest method of reaching this highly important colony.

New Caledonia is situated on the north-west coast of North America, and is defined, in the bill recently introduced into the House of Commons for its future government by Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, as comprising "all such territories within the dominion of Her Majesty as are bounded to the south by the frontier of the United States of America, to the east by the Watershed between the streams which flow into the Pacific Ocean and those which flow into the Atlantic and Icy Oceans, to the north by the fifty-fifth parallel of north latitude, and to the west by the Pacific Ocean; and shall include Queen Charlotte's Island and all other islands adjacent, excepting Vancouver Island," which has a special constitution of its own.

Vancouver Island lies off the mainland at a distance of about forty or fifty miles, extending from north latitude $48^{\circ} 17'$ to $50^{\circ} 55'$, and from west longitude $123^{\circ} 10'$ to $128^{\circ} 30'$. Its extreme length from

north-west to south-east is 276 miles; its breadth varies from 50 miles to 65 miles. On the east and north-east it is separated from the coast of British America by the Gulf of Georgia and Queen Charlotte's Sound, and on the south the Strait of San Juan de Fuca separates it from the Oregon territory of the United States. North of Queen Charlotte's Sound will be found Queen Charlotte's Islands, between 52° and 54° north latitude. The group consists of three islands, about 150 miles in length, by about 60 miles in breadth. It may be as well at the outset to correct a popular misconception existing that gold has been discovered on Vancouver Island itself. The new gold fields are on the mainland about 150 miles from the coast, and some little gold has been forwarded from Queen Charlotte's Island.

CHAPTER II.

EARLY DISCOVERY AND SUBSEQUENT HISTORY.

THE claim of the Spaniards to having made the first successful explorations on the western coast of North America in the sixteenth century is very generally admitted. In consequence of a bull issued in 1494 by Pope Alexander VI., the celebrated Treaty of Partition was concluded between the united Spanish sovereigns and the King of Portugal. In accordance with this treaty the Spaniards were to make no attempts to communicate with India by sea through eastern routes, which became, in a manner, the property of Portugal; while, on the other hand, they were to possess exclusive control and use of every western channel of intercourse with those countries which might be discovered.

In 1513 Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the governor of the colony of Darien, on the Atlantic, after a short march across the mountains overlooking that place, arrived on the shore of a sea. The Spaniards, in consequence, directed their researches particularly towards this isthmus until the complete separation of the oceans in that quarter was satisfactorily established. In the meanwhile a Portuguese in the same service, one Fernando Magalhaens or Magellan, discovered the strait which has hitherto borne his name, and thereby solved the difficult geographical problem as to the possibility of circumnavigating the globe. While Magellan was prosecuting his labours in this direction, Herman Cortes conquered the rich and populous empire of Mexico, and in the course of a few years Peru and Chili likewise passed into the possession of the Spanish monarch. The most northern settlement on the Pacific side of the American continent known in 1523 was Culiacan, a small place near the eastern side of the entrance to the Gulf of California. The enterprising Cortes despatched several fruitless expeditions for the purpose of extending his dominions, and at length succeeded in planting a colony at La Santa Cruz, at the southern extremity of the peninsula. Of the voyage made by him in the arm of the sea between California and the continent the accounts are conflicting, and involved in considerable obscurity. However, it is certain he ultimately cleared up every doubt as to the continuity of that country with America in the north-east. After a succession of failures by several adventurers, the Spaniards came to the conclusion that neither wealthy nations nor navigable passages between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans were to be found north of Mexico, unless beyond the fortieth degree of latitude. They then desisted in their efforts, and did not

resume them for upwards of forty years. The English having thrown off their allegiance to the head of the Roman Catholic Church, misunderstandings began to arise between them and the Spaniards with reference to the monopolising policy pursued in certain sections of the New World. The English government repeatedly protested against the exclusive regulations laid down, and their just demands were as persistently rejected. Their right to occupy vacant portions of America being refused to be recognised, Queen Elizabeth did not scruple to sanction the violation of laws which she declared to be utterly unjustifiable. In December, 1577, the most celebrated naval captain of the age, Francis Drake, sailed from Plymouth with five small vessels, ostensibly on a voyage to Egypt, but really on a hostile cruise against the dominions and subjects of Spain. He safely navigated three of them through the Straits of Magellan; but scarcely had he accomplished this arduous task, when his little fleet was reduced by a storm to a schooner of a hundred tons burden, with a crew of sixty men; but, in defiance of this misfortune, he determined upon persisting in his enterprise. He sailed northward, and is reported to have pushed his investigations as far as the Bay of San Francisco. This statement seems based on rather questionable authority, and has originated much dispute, sufficiently authentic evidence not having been brought forward to substantiate the supposition that Drake had seen any part of the coast hitherto undiscovered. Official surveys were ordered, and the Captain-General of California, Sebastian Vizcaino, struggled bravely to effect settlements at San Diego, Monterey, and other points of the coast, with a view of facilitating the trade with India; but his perseverance was unavailing, and upon his death no further measures were adopted, either by individual Spaniards or by their government, to add to their territory in those regions until one hundred and sixty years afterwards.

In 1774 the British legislature was anxious to ascertain definitively whether a northern passage existed between the two oceans; and, in order that the experiment might be effectual, it was decided that two vessels should sail simultaneously for the North Pacific and Baffin's Bay. Captain Cook, who about this time returned from his second circumnavigation of the earth, volunteered to command the expedition, and his offer being immediately accepted, he accordingly started from Plymouth on the 12th of July, 1776, in his old ship, the *Resolution*, accompanied by the *Discovery*, under Captain Charles Clerk. As in this his last voyage Captain Cook has the merit of being the first European who landed upon Vancouver Island, by his discovery of Nootka Sound, we propose extracting an admirable description from Robert Greenhow's "*History of Oregon and California*," &c., to whose excellent work we are bound to confess we are indebted for much valuable matter. "He was instructed to proceed by way of the Cape of Good Hope and Otaheite to the coast of New Albion, endeavouring to fall in with it in the latitude of 45°. He was there to put into the first convenient port, to recruit his wood and water, and procure refreshments, and then to sail northward.

* * * * *

"The application of the name of New Albion showed that the British government had no intention to resign the rights supposed or pretended to have been acquired by Drake's visit to that region. In order to revive and fortify these claims Cook was instructed, with the consent of the natives, to take possession, in the name of the King of Great Britain, of convenient situations in such countries that had not already been visited by any other European power. * * * * He did not arrive upon the north-west coast of America until the 7th of March, 1778, when he made the land about a hundred miles north of Cape Mendocino. For several days afterwards he was prevented by violent storms from advancing, as he wished, towards the north, and was driven along the coast to some distance in the contrary direction. The wind then becoming favourable, he took the desired course, and on the 22nd of the month his ships were opposite a projecting point of the continent, situated a little beyond the forty-eighth parallel, to which he gave the name of Cape Flattery, in token of his improved prospects. He continued his voyage along the shore of what he supposed to be the continent as far as the latitude of $49\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. Under that parallel he found a spacious and secure bay, offering every facility for the repair of his vessels and the refreshment of his men, in which he cast anchor on the 29th of March, bestowing upon it, at the same time, the name of King George's Sound. This name he shortly after changed to that of Nootka Sound, under the impression (which appears to have been incorrect) that Nootka was the term employed to distinguish the bay by the natives of the surrounding territory." In answer to inquiries the natives asserted they had never seen any other vessels, nor had they ever communicated with any other civilised people. Cook, therefore, felt justified in putting forward his claim as being the first discoverer of Nootka Sound, and it has since been almost universally conceded to him. The results of Cook's researches were far more important than those obtained by all the navigators who had hitherto explored this part of the sea. The positions of a number of points on the western side of America were for the first time accurately determined, and means were thus afforded for ascertaining approximately the extent of the continent. Henceforth Nootka became the place to which vessels sailing from the south generally steered, and from which they took their departure on returning, as it offered greater facilities for obtaining water and provisions, as well as for repairs, than any other harbour in that part of the ocean. In 1790 a serious controversy sprang up between Great Britain and Spain, relative to the navigation of the Pacific and Southern Oceans, and the unoccupied portions of America bordering upon those seas. This was the first occasion that the right of sovereignty asserted by Spain over this vast region had been formally contested, although her pretensions to exclusive navigation had long since ceased to be treated with deference by the rest of the world. Upon careful examination of official documents it has been clearly demonstrated that "before the arrival of the Spanish commander, Martinez, at Nootka, in May, 1789, no settlement factory, or commercial or military establishment whatsoever had been founded, or even attempted; and no jurisdiction had been exercised by

the subjects or authorities of any civilised nation in any part of America bordering upon the Pacific, between Port San Francisco and Prince William's Sound." It is true other Europeans had landed at different places, displaying flags, and constructing crosses on behalf of their respective countries; but such acts were invariably deemed idle ceremonies, conveying no prescriptive property in the soil. After a protracted controversy, however, Spain undertook by treaty, in 1790, to restore several pieces of land and buildings in the vicinity of Nootka Sound, which were declared to belong to John Meares and other British subjects at the time of the occupation of that harbour by the forces of his Catholic Majesty. Notwithstanding this demand was earnestly pressed and conceded, many circumstances combine to show that the basis upon which it was urged was very slight. The convention, nevertheless, having been concluded, Captain George Vancouver, who had been one of Cook's lieutenants, was commanded to proceed there immediately, and receive the surrender of such lands and buildings as were specified in this treaty. He was also instructed to commence a scientific examination of the coasts included between the thirty-fifth and sixtieth parallels of north latitude, and more particularly to explore the supposed Straits of Fuca, said to have been passed through by an American sloop, Washington.

Vancouver departed on the 1st of May from Cape Flattery, on the southern side of the entrance to the strait, in order to perform the latter but most important part of his instructions. He sailed along the shore eastwards to the distance of about one hundred miles, and first entered a passage opening south, which he named Admiralty Inlet, terminating in a bay called by him Puget's Sound. Many inlets on either side of the bay were thus explored to their terminations, and they then passed by an opening to the north-west into another extensive arm of the sea, where they unexpectedly met with two Spanish schooners employed in a similar duty. They came to an arrangement to unite their labours, and continued in company nearly a month, interchanging mutual civilities by the exhibition of their charts. At the north-western extremity of the Gulf of Georgia they separated, and the British passed through an intricate channel, called by them Johnstone's Strait, emerging into the Pacific by Queen Charlotte's or Pintard's Sound.

On the 28th of August, 1792, Vancouver communicated to the Spanish commissioner, Quadra, at Nootka, the fact established by him, "that the supposed Strait of Fuca was merely an arm of the Pacific, dividing from the American continent a great island, on the western side of which the territory then occupied by the Spaniards, and claimed by the British, was situated." The two officers agreed that the island should bear the names of both; and it has ever since been distinguished on maps by the long and inconvenient appellation of "Quadra and Vancouver Island."

It will be observed that a lack of adequate space has compelled us to compress our matter within a small compass, unusually limited, considering the amplitude of the materials at our disposal. But as we are anxious to render this historical sketch as complete as possible, it is

requisite that we should glance at the early operations of the different trading companies and private individuals, who, impelled by the lust of wealth, vigorously sought to force a path over the Rocky Mountains in pursuit of their wishes.

The United States and Great Britain having signed a treaty of commerce and navigation in 1794, an extensive trade, exclusively in furs, was carried on by Americans with the Indians inhabiting the countries about the Upper Mississippi and Lake Superior. The British fur-traders made their first expedition beyond the Rocky Mountains in 1806, when Mr. Simon Frazer, a partner of the North-West Company, established a trading port on Frazer's Lake, in New Caledonia. John Jacob Astor, a German merchant of large capital, residing in New York, projected an association, to be called the Pacific Fur Company, which, under certain conditions, was to enjoy the exclusive privileges of trading with the Russian American possessions. To execute these plans Mr. Astor engaged as partners in the concern a number of persons, nearly all Scotchmen. These partners were to conduct the business in the west, under the control of a superintendent, and they were collectively to divide one-half of the profits, the other half being retained by the projector for having advanced all the funds. The first party quitted New York in the Tonquin, and arrived at the mouth of the Columbia in March, 1811. A spot was selected on the south bank of the river, eight miles from the ocean, on which a large factory was erected, and called Astoria, as a compliment to the originator of the speculation. In 1819, through the intervention of the Colonial Department, these companies became amalgamated with the celebrated Hudson's Bay Company; and, as this corporation has played a prominent part in the administration of affairs in the district to the west of the Rocky Mountains, it may not, perhaps, be uninteresting to revert to the circumstances under which it was created. Hudson's Bay is about 900 miles in length, by 600 at its greatest breadth, with a surrounding coast of 300 miles. These shores having been found to be tenanted by furred animals of great value, the idea of forming a settlement was suggested by Grosselier, a Frenchman, who, having failed in obtaining any countenance from his own countrymen, laid his scheme before Prince Rupert, who immediately perceived its value. A capital of £10,500 was subscribed by the Duke of Albemarle, Lord Craven, and others, and a charter of incorporation was granted by Charles II. in 1670. Stations were settled on Moose River, and a few years later on the Albany, and soon after two more on the Nelson and the Severn. Hostilities were constantly occurring between the French and English settlers; but, notwithstanding the fact of the company having sustained gigantic losses, they prospered marvellously—a conclusive proof of the lucrative nature of their transactions.

At the peace of Utrecht the factories captured by the enemy were restored to them, and in 1720 they had trebled their capital, with a call of only 10 per cent. on the shareholders. Again, in 1782, a number of their factories were appropriated by the French, under Perouse, after which period they had to encounter much fierce competition with the North-West Company, terminating in aggressive animosity and blood-

shed. At length, in 1821, an Act of Parliament was passed under which the crown granted to the company (then including the three rival associations) a license of exclusive trade "over all those tracts that might not be included in the original charter, and also over those tracts which, by mutual consent, were open to the subjects of England and those of the United States." After a careful investigation on the part of the government, this license was renewed on the 30th of May, 1838, for twenty-one years.

The affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company are at present conducted by a governor, deputy governor, and a committee of seven, elected by 239 proprietors, representing an aggregate capital of £400,000. Of the 239 proprietors 55 have more than two votes. £900 of stock must be held for six months by each voter previously to voting, except such stock be acquired by bequest or marriage; and each member of the committee must hold not less than £1800 stock. The business of the company is superintended by twenty-five chief factors at the respective stations; and under them the twenty-eight chief traders carry on the traffic with the Indians. The clerks serve under both the factors and the traders, their salaries ranging from £20 to £100 per annum. The company have now about 140 establishments, besides hunting expeditions and shipping. Their forts or stockaded positions extend from the coast of Labrador to the Pacific, and from the northern boundaries of Canada to the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Vancouver Island was made over to the company by the crown in 1849, the grant being revocable at the end of eleven years, upon the distinct understanding that they should attempt to colonise it. This term expires next year, and the colonial secretary has announced that the present government does not contemplate a renewal of the lease, as the administration of the island has not been in any way satisfactory. In the meantime it is in the highest degree important that emigrants should know upon what conditions they can settle and obtain sub-grants of land on this colony. They are, 1. That no grant of land shall contain less than twenty acres. 2. That purchasers of land shall pay to the Hudson's Bay Company the sum of £1 per acre for the land sold to them, to be held in free and common socage. 3. That purchasers shall provide a passage for themselves and their families, or be provided with a passage, if they prefer it, on paying for the same at a reasonable rate. 4. That purchasers of larger quantities of land shall pay the same price per acre, viz., £1, and shall take out with them five single men or three married couples for every hundred acres. 5. That all minerals, wherever found, shall belong to the company, who shall have the right of digging for the same, compensation being made to the owner of the soil for any injuries done to the surface; but that the owner shall have the privilege of working for his own benefit any coal mine that may be on his land, on payment of a royalty of 2s. 6d. per ton. 6. That every freeholder shall enjoy the right of fishing for all sorts of fish in the seas, bays, and inlets, of or surrounding the said island; and that all the ports and harbours shall be open and free to them and all nations, either trading or seeking shelter therein. The government of the island has been arranged on

the following constitutional basis:—The governor is appointed by the crown, with a council of seven members likewise so appointed. The governor is authorised to call assemblies, to be elected by inhabitants holding twenty acres of freehold land; but it is left to the discretion of the governor to fix the number of representatives, and to divide the island into electoral districts, if he shall think such division necessary. The governor has the usual power of proroguing or dissolving such assembly. Laws will be passed by the governor, council, and assembly. The legislature thus constituted will have full power to impose taxes, regulate the affairs of the island, and to modify its institutions, subject to the usual control of the crown.

The computed area of the new El Dorado is not less than 200,000 square miles, and, as the intelligence of the discovery of gold is circulated and confirmed, an indiscriminate rush of a Bohemian population of sturdy diggers, in search of the auriferous deposits on the Frazer and Thompson rivers, may be anticipated. An arduous task has thus devolved upon our legislators, it being indispensable, for the security of life and property, that this vast tract of country should be covered by the protection of law and order, adequately supported to enforce its strict observance. To provide for this contingency, Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton has brought forward a bill in the House of Commons to regulate the future government of this dependency. The purport of this bill is to establish a provisional government for a specified period of five years, when its authority will give place to those free institutions for which it is framed to pave the way. It empowers Her Majesty, until the 31st of December, 1862, "to appoint an officer to make provision for the administration of justice, and to devise laws for the peace, order, and good government of the colony; and, as soon as it may be deemed convenient, by order in council to authorise such officer to constitute a legislature, to consist of the governor and a council, or council and assembly, to be composed of such persons, elected in such manners and subject to such regulations as it may be deemed expedient." Vancouver Island, which is 700 miles distant, is not included, as it is destined to become a great naval station, and the attention of the authorities will be absorbed in developing its resources. The question of future annexation is left open, so that it is competent for the inhabitants at any time to address the crown to unite the island and the mainland under one governor. A sufficient naval and military reinforcement is to be sent out to support the executive. The same laws now prevalent in Australia will, doubtless, be applied to this new state of affairs. A moderate tax of about twenty shillings, varying according to the exigencies of the public expenditure, will be exacted from every miner for his license. We may add, in conclusion of this branch of the subject, that it is the opinion of every well-informed person who is in a position to judge, that the existing price of land in Vancouver Island, as rated by the Hudson's Bay Company, is, when compared with the charges fixed in adjacent territories, excessively exorbitant, and has hitherto conduced to deter many emigrants from proceeding thither. Upon the resumption of the soil, however, by the crown in the ensuing year, there is every reason

to believe that this discrepancy will be rectified, and a material reduction take place. It was the policy of this moribund company to discourage colonisation as far as practicable, as their profits depended, in a great measure, on unrestricted freedom of intercourse with the natives.

Since writing the above Mr. Roebuck has moved a series of resolutions in the House of Commons to the effect—

1. That the privileges of the Hudson's Bay Company, about to expire, ought not to be renewed.

2. That the legal validity of the exclusive rights claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company under their charter ought at once to be determined by process of law.

3. That so much of the territory hitherto held by the Hudson's Bay Company as may be needed for the purpose of colonisation ought without delay to be resumed by the government of this country.

An interesting discussion ensued, in the course of which Lord Bury asserted that a large portion of the territory now claimed by the company was in the occupation of France at the time the charter was granted by Charles II., so that the king could not have given them a country which was the property of another state. He endeavoured to prove, by a variety of details, that the country was fertile, and in all respects fitted for colonisation in the prairie districts, and offered ample means of internal communication. Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, in explanation of the intention of his colleagues, stated that the charter of the company gave no territorial rights, and involved no question of compensation for lands that might be withdrawn. The government had made up their minds not to renew the license over any part of the Indian territory which was adapted for colonisation. The question of the validity of the company's right under their charter would be, however, submitted to the present law officers of the crown, and that next session they would be in a position to propose a scheme on the subject which would satisfy all parties. It was also intimated that, in the event of the Canadian government declining to take the Red River Settlement, the Imperial government was prepared to consider the expediency of creating these districts into a distinct and independent colony. On Tuesday, July 27th, the Earl of Carnarvon, in requesting the House of Lords to permit the "Government of New Caledonia Bill" to be read a second time, merely recapitulated the arguments adduced by the Colonial Secretary in the other house, but in conclusion said that, objections having been taken to the name of New Caledonia, though it seemed to be the first title given in the old maps, and it was also used by Humboldt when speaking of the territory, Her Majesty, however, had been graciously pleased to signify her pleasure that henceforth the colony should be known by the name of British Columbia. The Duke of Newcastle availed himself of the opportunity to eulogise the advantageous position of this valuable acquisition to our colonial possessions, as offering facilities for a better system of colonisation than the mere eruption of gold-diggers. It was not like other gold-bearing districts, barren and rocky. It was a singularly fine country, apart from the gold discoveries in it. It possessed a fertile soil, magnificent woods of

the finest timber for ship-building purposes, abundant and excellent fisheries, and coal in large quantities of a nature to generate steam. It contained all the elements of a prosperous colony, and he could not help thinking that some of the difficulties attending its first settlement would be obviated if an attempt were made to lay out a town, to allot land in connection with it, or in some way to attract persons to settle there permanently instead of merely going to search for gold. They might introduce at once by those means habits of civilisation, instead of only establishing a government with sufficient force to coerce the population into decency and order." The alteration in the name is in every way desirable, in order to avoid the possibility of confounding this dependency with an island in the possession of the French, already distinguished by the same appellation.

CHAPTER III.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS AND NATURAL HISTORY OF THE ISLAND.

INDEPENDENTLY of the adjacent territories, the favourable position occupied by Vancouver Island, with reference to the China and Japan trade and the islands of the Pacific, renders it peculiarly suited for being the emporium of an extended commerce; and, from the fact of its possessing numerous excellent harbours, there is no reason why it may not at some future period command the principal portion of the trade between the Archipelago of the Pacific and the continent of America. The climate is very agreeable, resembling that of England, but on the whole much milder. It generally rains and snows from October to March, and during the rest of the year a parching heat prevails. The winds along the coast in winter are from the south-east, varying from that to the south-west, with occasional heavy northerly gales, and in the summer from the north and north-west. The soil under cultivation proves to be adapted for the production of excellent wheat crops. Captain Wilkes, of the United States navy, estimates "the produce, whether from farm or garden, as of the finest character. The wheat weighs 63 lbs. to the bushel, and 600 acres produced 7000 bushels. Barley yields twenty bushels to the acre, though oats do not thrive well; but peas, beans, and potatoes yield abundantly. Strawberries and gooseberries (the former nearly ripe), and salad gone to seed, were seen at Nisqually on the 15th of May. Cattle find natural hay all the year round, and multiply with astonishing rapidity."

"Generally speaking," says Col. Colquhoun Grant, "the climate is both agreeable and healthy; and not a single death, that I am aware of, has occurred among the adults from disease during the six years that I have been acquainted with the island."

The Hudson's Bay Company, in 1849 established a port at Beaver Harbour, on the north-east corner of the island. It had been induced to form this station from the fact that some Indians had for a long period been in the habit of procuring coal from the district. The mineral lay actually on the surface of the soil; but, on examination, it was found to be of too loose and open a texture, and too largely intermixed with slate to be worth the cost of working. In the neighbourhood of this port, however, which is called Fort Rupert, large supplies of very fine timber are to be obtained. It is adapted for the masts and spars of vessels; indeed, a considerable quantity of it has already been cut for those purposes. At Point Holmes some ten or twelve miles of "rich

open prairie land," situated near the coast, offer the most eligible section for an agricultural settlement that has yet been discovered upon the island. South of this point the next important locality is Nanaimo Harbour, where the Hudson's Bay Company has established one of its forts. Here, in May, 1850, the Indians directed the attention of Mr. McKay to a seam of coal; they also spoke of having seen some "black stuff" on the opposite land, called Commercial Inlet. This seam, now named the Douglas Seam, rapidly yielded some 200 tons of coal to the rude labour of the Indians. On the 17th of September Mr. Gilmour and a party of miners sank a shaft to a depth of fifty feet, and discovered a seam some six to seven feet in thickness, from which as large a supply as 120 tons of coal per week has been obtained by ten regular miners. Mr. Grant states that this seam, cropping out at the above-mentioned point, is but an offshoot of the great Douglas Seam, which he says has been attacked on four sides—on two by regular miners, and on two by Indians. "And," he adds, "altogether, there are few places to be met with where coal can be worked as easily, and exported as conveniently, as from Nanaimo, and it will be the Hudson's Bay Company's own fault if they do not make a very profitable speculation out of their possessions there."

About 2000 tons of coal were, up to January, 1854, got out of the mines near Nanaimo, and when exported to San Francisco realised twenty-eight dollars per ton. The harbour is commodious, sheltered on every side, and is the scene of a flourishing little settlement of some 125 inhabitants, of whom thirty-seven are working men, the remainder women and children. Their food is mainly provided by the Indians, who bring in on some days as many as twenty-three deer. The company has claimed 6000 acres of land in the immediate vicinity of the harbour, which is all the soil available for cultivation in the district. There is, at a distance of seven miles to the north-west, another harbour, called Tutuis, where the Indians report the existence of coal strata.

An arm of the sea runs inland for ten miles at Sanetah, distant about forty miles from Nanaimo. It does not, however, afford good anchorage. The country surrounding it is richly wooded, with open tracts or prairies, equal altogether to about three square miles; but whatever emigrant may locate himself here must be content to remain shut out from communication with any other colonists resident in the interior, as at about a mile's distance from the sea a chain of mountains rises up in a manner to forbid all attempts at penetrating into the interior. Into this arm, at its northern side, the largest river yet known to exist on the island, the Cowitchin, discharges itself. Taking its rise from a large lake in the centre of the island, it widens at about twenty miles from its mouth, during the month of May, to an extent of some 160 feet. Its depth is between three and four feet, and it runs in a portion of its course through rich alluvial land. At Victoria resides Mr. Douglas, the chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and governor of the island. The settlement, situated upon a small harbour, is made up of some sixty houses, or log cabins, as they, in point of fact, principally are. The chief clerks, traders, &c., reside with the stores inside a palisaded inclosure; while on the surrounding country, comprising about seven square miles of

open land and ten miles of woodland, are to be found the great body of the colonists at present resident on the island. Between Victoria and Esquimaux there are 200 acres of prairie land; advancing west we find, beyond Esquimaux harbour, 350 acres more; and at Matchousin, six miles still further west, there is an additional tract of 620 acres of fine open land. Succeeding these oases, dreary rocks continue to characterise the coast till we reach Pedder Bay, a snug little harbour, indenting the island for nearly three miles. Surrounding this harbour there is a rich level tract, with good soil, consisting of black mould above a subsoil of yellow clay. This fertile district is plentifully sprinkled with oak trees, is well watered, and contains several springs.

"On Soke Bay," says Col. Colquhoun Grant, from whose exceedingly graphic description of Vancouver Island, communicated to the Royal Geographical Society, we found our remarks on the climate, soil, &c., of the colony, "on Soke Bay the author of this paper originally established himself. He brought about thirty-five acres under cultivation; raised a small stock of cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry; and built houses for himself and men, with a barn, farm buildings, and a saw-mill. He found the soil produce abundantly, when cultivated, any crops that can be grown in Scotland or England. He found no difficulty in establishing a friendly intercourse with the native tribes of savages, who were only about sixty in number. For two years he resided there a solitary colonist; he then let his farm on lease to some of the men he had brought out with him, and went to visit a far country."

The harbour of Soke is perfectly sheltered, but is scarcely adapted to large vessels. Along the eastern shore there is scarcely any available land, but at the entrance of the bay a Scotch family have located themselves on a little green alluvial patch, where they prepare piles and spars to be shipped to San Francisco. Six varieties of fir and one of pine exist around the harbour. Here rocks again commence to display themselves, and continue till we reach the mouth of a river, called by the natives Quaachuka, which discharges itself, at a point some fourteen miles west of Soke, into the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Traces of coal have also been observed in this district.

As we emerge from the Straits of Fuca we reach the open sea, having, as we rounded Point Bonilla, passed a salt-water loch, presenting a narrow shallow entrance from the sea, not capable of admitting any larger craft than the native canoe. This loch runs inward for some miles, expanding, at a short distance from the coast, to a width of two or three miles. On its shores are settled a tribe of savages called Nitteentuch or Nitteenats, who are expert whalers.

Cape Canasco, the southern point of the entrance to Barclay Sound, is at a distance of fifteen miles to the northward of Cape Bonilla. Since Meares's visit to Barclay Sound, in the beginning of the present century, no white man had appeared there till the arrival of an American vessel in the summer of 1852. The natives brought alongside this vessel in one week no less than 120 barrels of salmon. It is a broad bay, open at the south-west. "Its breadth at the entrance," says Grant, "is about fifteen miles, and it runs inland with the same breadth

to a distance of seventeen miles. A number of rocky islets stretch across the entrance, leaving, however, two broad open channels, both towards the south-east side. One of these channels is about one mile and a half broad, and is close to the eastern shore of the sound; the other is about three miles and a quarter broad, and is a little farther to the north-west. It cannot be mistaken, being clearly visible from the outside, and also distinctly marked by a very singular rock, with only three fir trees on it, appearing precisely like the three masts of a vessel. The channel is immediately to the north of this rock, and the Sound is more open immediately after entering within it. There are, however, a few islands interspersed all over it, most of them inhabited by small fishing families of the savages. Generally speaking, the country all round Barclay Sound is broken and rocky, thickly covered with useless wood, and unfit for cultivation or settlement. There is no truth in the reports which have been circulated of there being coal on Barclay Sound. The Indians, however, describe some coal as existing at Munahmah, in the country of Cojucklesatuch, some three days' journey into the interior, at the back of Barclay Sound. The coal is described as a seam four feet thick, cropping out from the top of a high hill. The inhabitants of Barclay Sound may be 700 in all: they are a poor, miserable race, are very much divided, both into tribes and small families. They are a harmless race, and live altogether by fishing, having few bows and arrows among them, and scarcely any muskets. Even the young men have a singularly old and worn appearance, and they are generally of much smaller stature than their neighbours, the Nitteenats. Dwelling on the banks of a small river, about two days' journey from Barclay Sound, is the only known inland tribe yet found in Vancouver Island. They have been almost exterminated by the Nanaimo Indians, who have reduced this tribe to four families."

"The next harbour to the north of Barclay Sound," to quote Grant, "is Clayoquot, where there are 3000 Indians established, who are anxious to trade with the whites; but as yet none but Americans have been amongst them. A bar with from four to six fathoms on it runs across the harbour. There is good anchorage inside, and shelter from all winds. The arm runs a considerable distance into the interior; but there is no open land that I am aware of, and the surface of the woodland is rocky and broken.

"From the northward to Nootka there is no land along the seaboard that has the appearance of being available for any useful purpose. Nootka Sound is a large arm of the sea, containing several small sheltered harbours. There is no open land near it, and but little available woodland. The Indians are numerous, and sometimes hostile. They seized an American vessel in the summer of 1852, but did not molest the crew. At Nespod, a little north of Nootka, coal is reported by the Indians. Nespod is called Port Brooks on the charts."

North of Nespod is Koskeemo, but there is no land at this point for colonisation or settlement. The coast is rocky, though not high, and a vessel would do well to keep clear of it in winter.

"It will be thus seen," adds Col. Grant, "that the most favourable

places for settlement are to be met with only on the east and south coasts. The west coast, north of Barclay Sound, has all a most unfavourable aspect; and even within Barclay Sound we have only Indian reports at present to trust to for there being land of a nature fit for settlement."

The Indian population of the whole island is stated at 17,000. They are, in general, favourably disposed to the whites, and with proper superintendence are capable of being made very useful. They all live by fishing, but take kindly to any rough sort of agricultural employment, though their labour is not generally to be depended on for any continued period.

The lands at present surveyed by the Hudson's Bay Company are included in a line, which may be taken from Sanetah to Soke Harbours. The quantity of land surveyed in detail is 200 square miles, of which one-third is rock unavailable; the remainder is principally woodland. The proportion of open land will be seen from the above remarks, where all that is known is mentioned, and bears a very small proportion to the woodland; but where it exists at all it is almost invariably rich; and the woodland, where it is at all level, is richer than the prairie ground, from the increased quantity of vegetable deposit.

Vancouver Island possesses but a poor Flora, and no new varieties of plants have been found there. The camass, a small esculent root about the size of an onion, is pretty generally scattered over the surface of the island. It is to be met with on the fertile patches of open ground or prairie, and also on the green slips of soil among the rocks. This root forms the principal native delicacy, in the way of food, for the savage inhabitants. They lay up large quantities of it for winter food, burying it in the ground in pits in the same manner as they preserve their store of potatoes. The root is said to possess strong astringent qualities. The savage mode of preparation is as follows:—Large holes are dug in the ground, into which are thrown hot stones; on these are placed the raw camass, and the whole covered up with sticks and mats—an arrangement which is left undisturbed until the root is sufficiently baked. Next to the camass, the plant most frequently to be met with in the island is the *Gaultheria Shallon*, called by the Canadians "salal," which is a small shrub, bearing a dark blue berry a little larger than the cranberry. The savages are very fond of this berry, and it is said to be sweet and wholesome. The *Arbutus uva ursi* is the name of another plant abounding on the hills. Its leaves, after having been dried and mingled with tobacco, are used as a smoking mixture. Like the salal, it constitutes an article of diet much sought after by the bear, of which two species exist on the island. In some districts the *Equisetum hyemale*, or what the Canadians call *la prêle* (the horsetail), is to be found. Natural grasses are scarce on the island, and this affords excellent food for cattle, which are said to be so fond of it that they will desert their pastures, and force a path through the woods for miles in order to get at it. In the woods and low grounds several varieties of campanula and lupinus grow; and wherever, on the low grounds and hill sides, sufficient soil to support them exists, all the fruits generally

cultivated in Great Britain are to be met with in abundance. The strawberry, the gooseberry, black currant, raspberry, a small black wild cherry, and a variety of the crab-apple, are included in the list; and on the south of the island, as well as upon the mainland opposite, the potato is universally cultivated by the red men. The potato appears to have been long known to them; but, as it is never grown by any of the tribes except those which have traded with the white man, it may be considered that the root is not indigenous, but the introduction of some of the early traders to these parts. There are eight or nine varieties of the potato to be found on the island, all differing, in a greater or less degree, according to the character of the soil upon which they grow. All, however, are of a larger size than any found in Europe. Mr. Grant informs us that potatoes and dried salmon form the staple food of all the natives who can procure them, the camass being considered in the light of a delicacy and dinner relish. They consume little animal food, being too lazy to hunt for it except during winter, when they shoot large quantities of wild fowl. Bears, of which, as we have said, two species exist in Vancouver, are numerous upon the island. Those Indians who possess "shooting-irons" kill them for the sake of bartering their skins with the Hudson's Bay Company. No part of the bear is grateful to the white man's palate, unless we except the foot when carefully cooked. A very hungry white man will, however, digest bear meat as easily as any savage; but the prospect of other food must be very remote before the stomach of the former can be induced to grow thus accommodating. The elk, the leucurus, or large white-tailed deer, and a smaller species of black-tailed deer, are also to be found upon the island. The flesh of the elk affords good nourishing food, but that of the other kinds is tasteless and insipid, containing but little nourishment. The panther and the black and white wolf infest the thick woods. "Squirrels and minxes," says Col. Grant, "are found everywhere in great numbers, and both land and sea-otters are occasionally to be met with: the latter are only found on the north coast of the island. The animal is generally from four to eight feet long, reaching, however, sometimes to a length of twelve feet; and its fur is very soft and delicate, being by far the most valuable of that of any animal found on the north-west coast. It is generally of a jet black colour, though sometimes it has a slightly brownish tint. Signs of the beaver have occasionally been seen by old trappers on Vancouver Island, but the animal has never actually been met with. Altogether there are very few animals producing valuable furs on the place, and I should conceive the value of furs actually trapped and traded on the island cannot exceed £40 per annum."

Of birds they have the *Tetrao obscurus*—the male a beautiful bird of bluish colour, rather larger than the Scottish grouse. He has a loose outer throat, like that of a turkey, of yellow colour, which he inflates when he utters his peculiar cry. This cry, something like that of an owl, is heard at a long distance. In uttering it, while perched on one of the lofty trees of the country, he frequently sounds his death knell, as the creeping savage, lured by the well-known sound, is guided by it in his approach to his beautiful victim, whom, however, he never attempts

to bag unless he sits quietly to receive him. The savage, although he has a very quick eye, never dreams of taking a flying shot at either bird, beast, or man.

There is also another species of grouse, the *Tetrao Richardsonii*; and the drum partridge completes the varieties of feathered game. The *obscurus* is found in the highest grounds, like the ptarmigan of Scotland; the other two varieties frequent the low woods. None of them are found in numbers, and it takes a very good shot, and a still better walker, to make up a game-bag of three brace a day.

Of small birds there is the Mexican woodpecker, and a large misshapen species of bullfinch. Note it has none; and, indeed, *aves vocales* may, generally speaking, be said never to be met with on the west coast of America. The settler in these parts misses equally the lively carol of the lark, the sweet, cheerful note of the thrush, and the melancholy melody of the nightingale.

There is a vast variety of aquatic birds, including the scaup duck, the *Anser Canadensis*, the golden eye, the common mallard, the teal, the crested gull, and numerous others. They completely cover the lakes and inland salt-water lochs in winter, but altogether desert the country in summer. A large species of crane frequents the marshes and open ground, and furnishes material for capital soup if you can bag him; they are, however, very shy. A sportsman will also occasionally kick up a solitary snipe. These latter are, however, extremely rare and migratory; they are never met with except during a few days in the beginning of February.

There are several varieties of fir in the woods, the most common of which are the *Douglasii* and the *grandis*. The former furnishes material for most excellent spars; the latter is a soft wood, very white, and open in the grain. It is difficult to season it, and from the irregularity of its growth is cross-grained, and does not make good timber. The *Canadensis*, the *mitis*, and the *alba*, which flourish well wherever there is any depth of soil, all make excellent timber, but are none of them adapted for finishing work. There is also the large red cedar of America, which grows into a noble tree; the *Abies nobilis*, and the *Cupressus thyoides*. The largest and most picturesque tree of the fir tribe in Vancouver Island is the *nobilis*; it is not, however, often met with, growing only in rich alluvial bottoms, and in no place that I have seen conveniently situated for export. This tree sometimes reaches a height of 250 feet, with a circumference of forty-two feet at the butt; the bark is from eight to fourteen inches thick. The white maple grows in all the low woodlands, and is abundant, but never reaches any great size. Wherever there is an open prairie land, two kinds of oak, the *Quercus suber clavigata*, and another similar species, somewhat darker in the bark and harder in the quality of the wood, are found. The quality of the wood of both these kinds of oak is hard and tough, and they are excellently adapted to form the knees and timbers for vessels. The trees, however, are small and scrubby, and hide their abashed heads below the towering coniferæ by which they are surrounded.

A large species of *Arbutus* grows on the seacoast, and on the banks

of rivers, sometimes reaching a height of from thirty to forty feet. The bark is smooth, and of a bright red colour; the wood is hard and white, and takes an excellent polish. Only one kind of pine has as yet been found on the island, the *Monticola*.

The above-mentioned kinds all grow to a great height—from 150 to 200 feet and upwards—wherever the land is at all level, and where there is any depth of soil. To the spectator from the seaboard the island appears one mass of wood. Among the natural productions of Vancouver Island the native hemp must not be omitted. Specimens have been sent to England, and on its quality being tested it was found to be superior to Russian hemp. There is no great quantity of it growing on the island, it being, more properly speaking, a natural production of the banks of Frazer River on the opposite mainland. There is no doubt, however, that it might be very extensively cultivated in Vancouver Island, and in its cultivation is probably the way, next to salmon-fishing, the labour of the native population might be most profitably employed.

The native population has been roughly estimated at 17,000. It reckons some twenty large, and perhaps eight or nine very small and insignificant tribes. The Clayoquots and Cowichins are called about 3000 strong. The Nootkas muster 2000, the Quackolls 1500, the Nitteenats 1000, the Sanetechs 800, the Isomass 700, which also is about the numerical strength of the Koskeemas. The other tribes vary from 500 to, in some instances, less than 100. The most powerful of these tribes live on the west coast, and at the head of them stand the Clayoquots, with whom for a long time the Americans have driven a smart trade in salmon and oil. The lands of the Sanetch, Isomass, Isclallum, and Soke tribes have been purchased from them by the Hudson's Bay Company in the name of the British government, leaving to the natives only a few yards of ground reserved around the sites of their villages. "The tribes," says Colonel Grant, "were paid in blankets for their lands, generally at the rate of a blanket to each head of a family, and two or three in addition to petty chiefs, according to their authority and importance. The quantities of blankets given to the various tribes were nearly as follow:—To the Isomass or Songass, 500; to the Sanetch, 300; to the Isclallum or Clellum and Soke Indians together, about 150; total, 950. The value of the blanket may be about 5s. in England, to which, if we add 100 per cent. profit, we have a value of 10s., or two dollars and a half nearly, as the price at which they were sold in the country in 1849-50, when the distribution was made. One thousand blankets at this rate do not seem a large price to pay to the aborigines for some 2000 square miles of land; but it was fully an equivalent for what the land was or ever would have been worth to them." As all these aborigines exist by fishing, and spend nearly all their time in canoes, their habits present little difference throughout the various parts of the island. Four distinct languages are spoken by them; but these original dialects have been broken up and subdivided into many others. Nearly all the tribes are at feud with each other; and every year a war expedition is undertaken by some one or other of the tribes against other tribes, their hereditary foes. All prisoners taken are carried off into slavery. An alliance of two neighbour-

ing tribes will sometimes, although rarely, be effected against a common foe. The fate of the captured was always either decapitation or servitude before the arrival of the white man on the island. The heads of prisoners, placed on poles, stood as long as wind and weather allowed in front of the villages, and were considered to afford a noble embellishment to the scene. The aborigines are described as being by no means courageous. The character given of them by Colonel Grant is, that they are "cruel, bloodthirsty, treacherous, and cowardly." They are ready to receive instruction, but are incapable of retaining any fixed idea. Religion they have none; they believe in no future state; neither had they, until some Jesuit missionaries came among them, any idea of a Supreme Being. They are much addicted to omens, each tribe possessing a *tomannous*, or juggler, who, on any one of the tribe being taken ill, must perform a series of incantations, in order to bring about his recovery. On the south coast the men are of a diminutive stature, varying from five feet two inches to five feet four inches; but among the Clayoquots and Quackolls, on the north, some of the men are found to be upwards of five feet ten inches. Many are said to have fair hair, and if well washed would doubtless be found to possess a florid complexion; but the prevailing tint of the savage complexion is that of a dirty copper kettle, the hair being generally a long coarse mass of straight black or dark brown hue. A few of the Indians wear a hat made of twisted cedar bark, of a mushroom shape; but for the most part the hair, allowed to grow unchecked, is the sole protection for the head during every season. Their noses are long; their cheek bones high; their mouth ugly and large; and a pair of long eyes, surmounted by a forehead villanously low, completes the picture of the native physiognomy. The upper portion of their bodies is good, they have broad shoulders and well-developed chests, but from the constant habit of squatting in their canoes their lower limbs are stunted and mis-shapen. The native costume is not difficult to describe: it consists of one blanket, now and then varied by a bearskin. Of late, however, some of the more advanced aborigines have adopted the European toilet, the fragmentary relic of a sailor's shirt being considered sufficient for this purpose. The women are attired in the same manner as the men, with the addition of an apron, made up of a few narrow strips of cedar bark, with a border of seaweed, which carelessly falls half way down the thigh. They are said never to possess good features, being all pug-nosed; but some travellers have considered their expression pleasing. The disgusting habit of flattening the head, which is practised among them, contributes to give a hideous appearance to their skulls. The process completely flattens the forehead, and, indeed, the whole front face. It is effected during infancy, when the child is only a few weeks old, and while the bones of the skull are yet soft. Polygamy prevails among the tribes, but plural wives are generally beyond the means of any but chiefs. The market value of a wife is ten blankets and a musket. Chiefs' daughters, however, fetch higher prices. Each tribe lives apart from the other, in houses inclosed in a large palisade, formed of stakes or young fir trees. Previously to the establishment of a fort among them by the Hudson's

Bay Company the savage weapons consisted of a yew bow, and arrows tipped with jagged fish bone; but the company having chiefly employed the musket as an article of barter, the use of this arm has come to be pretty well mastered by the red men.

In the months of August and September a general jubilee occurs, and every man and woman goes forth to catch the salmon that abound at this time with net, spear, and hook. The herring season succeeds, and during the months of October and November their time is occupied in raking the fish into their canoes by means of long sticks armed all over with crooked nails. The herring is stated to be precisely similar to that caught on the west coast of Scotland. Of salmon there are seven distinct kinds; they are fine large fish, sometimes weighing from 50 lbs. to 60 lbs. A few whales visit this coast at certain seasons. The native mode of securing them is to attack them in large numbers—in fact, surround them with canoes—and, by incessantly plunging darts attached to air bladders into their bodies, to tire them out, and so slaughter them. Afterwards they are towed ashore, when the oil is “tried out” into wooden tubes by the aid of hot stones.

Colonel Grant furnishes this picture of the aboriginal village:—“Whatever difference there may be in the languages of the various tribes of Vancouver Island, and however great their hostility one towards another, in one characteristic they almost universally agree, and that is in the general filthiness of their habits. No pigsty could present a more filthy aspect than that afforded by the exterior of an Indian village. They are always situated close to the water-side, either on a harbour or some sheltered nook of the seacoast, or, as in the case of the Cowitchins, on the banks of a river. They are generally placed on a high bank, so as to be difficult of access to an attacking party; and their position is not unfrequently chosen, whether by chance or from taste, in the most picturesque sites. A few round holes, or sometimes low oblong holes or apertures in the palisades, generally not above three feet high, constitute their means of egress and ingress. They seldom move about much on *terra firma*, but, after creeping out of their holes, at once launch their canoes, and embark therein. A pile of cockle-shells, oyster-shells, fish bones, pieces of putrid meat, old mats, pieces of rag, and dirt and filth of every description, the accumulation of generations, is seen in the front of every village; half-starved curs, cowardly and snappish, prowl about, occasionally howling; and the savage himself, notwithstanding his constant exposure to the weather, is but a moving mass covered with vermin of every description. Generally speaking, when not engaged in fishing, they pass the greater portion of their time in a sort of torpid state, lying inside beside their fires. The only people to be seen outside are a few old women, cleaning their wool or making baskets. Sometimes a group of determined gamblers is visible, rattling their sticks, and occasionally some industrious old fellow mending his canoe, all the canoes being invariably hauled up on the beach in front of the village. The firing of a shot, or any unusual sound, will bring the whole crew out to gaze at you. They first wrap their blankets round them, and then sit down on their truncus in a position peculiar to themselves—they are

doubled up into the smallest possible compass, with their chin resting on their knees, and they look precisely like so many frogs crouched on the dunghill aforesaid."

These savages seldom live beyond the age of fifty years. A grey-haired man is rarely seen among them—a fact to be accounted for by the horrible custom prevalent among them of the sons and relatives getting rid of the old man when he is no longer able to support himself. Very often the poor wretch is disposed of by his selfish family at the shortest notice; but sometimes a general council is summoned to give an air of deliberation to the detestable act. A large gathering of the tribe takes place, presided over by the *tomannous*, or medicine man. If the old man is universally considered an encumbrance he is led off at once, and strangled by a hempen cord, or a halter of twisted seaweed. No less loathsome is the habit common among them of extinguishing life in the womb; and from this and other causes premature birth is frequent with the women, who rarely become the mother of more than a couple of savages of the male or female gender. Every flower, tree, and herb that grows in the island has a name in their language, and the aborigines have discovered the means of extracting poison from many plants. The only application, however, they seem to make of this knowledge is to get rid of any obnoxious member of the community by its means.

Père Cheroux, one of the Jesuit priests who have been wasting years in the endeavour to introduce the truths of the Christian religion among these aborigines, exclaims, "He who would sow the seeds of instruction in the heart of these savages has selected a soil truly sterile." Colonel Grant furnishes us with a description of the labours towards this end of the Père Lamfrett. "At first he was all enthusiasm. '*Plus que je vois ces sauvages, plus je les aime*,' he said. The savages were amused with the illustrations of the Holy Writ, and were somewhat pleased with the sacred songs he taught them. Some of the Isomass women learned without much difficulty to chant portions of the service of the Catholic Church; and he instituted among them the ceremonies of baptism and of marriage, without at all, however, making them comprehend the true nature of these institutions. When they found there was nothing to be made by their attention to his harangues their attendance gradually flagged, and when the fishing season came all his converts, male and female, evaporated, and preferred the pursuit of salmon to that of religion. On their return they were more obdurate than ever; the charm of novelty had disappeared. Disgusted, he declared they were spoiled by their intercourse with the white man."

About this time the Cowitchins, a powerful nation, sent him an invitation to their palisades, and provided him with an escort of twenty canoes. This tribe had the reputation of being brave and uncontaminated by the visits of the whites. The good father's enthusiasm rose again. He met with a brilliant success among his new friends; in two days he baptized upwards of two thousand of them, and on the third he married seven hundred more. Religion having progressed so marvellously, he was beginning to think of introducing the fine arts, when, unfortunately, his supplies of blankets and fish-hooks fell short, upon which his dis-

ciples expressed themselves thus:—‘*Haelo iketu, haelo tilekum*,’ the translation of which is, ‘No goods, no men.’ The fishing season occurring about this time, his congregation was reduced to a few old women; and when they came back, finding no fresh fish-hooks had been sent to him, they despatched an envoy to the Hudson’s Bay Company, to inform them that unless the padre were removed they would be obliged to kill him.

From Colonel Grant’s exceedingly valuable description of Vancouver Island we extract the following statement of the trade carried on there during the year 1853. All the *bonâ fide* trade has been between the island and San Francisco; but the Hudson’s Bay Company’s vessels have exported cargoes of salmon from Frazer River to the Sandwich Islands. Salmon, herrings, and cod are to be found abundantly all around the coast; sturgeon and halibut also exist in great quantities. The fisheries, coal, and timber undoubtedly make the island worthy of attention, without at all taking into account the facilities for farming many parts of the island offer. The exports were as follows:—Coals, 1492 tons; cranberries, 150 barrels; piles, 128,800 running feet; squared timber, 16,500 cubic feet; spars, 22,000 running feet; sawn timber, 10,000 superficial feet; oysters, 1000 barrels; salmon, 3540 barrels; oil (whale and fish), 200 barrels; oolachnas, 150 barrels.

CHAPTER IV.

THE MAINLAND, OR NEW CALEDONIA.

APPROACHING the mainland, say from the Gulf of Georgia, which runs between it and the Island of Vancouver, New Caledonia presents a sea-wall of jagged, rugged cliffs, against which a foaming sea dashes ineffectually. A monotonous series of rocks start up before the voyager's view, all densely covered with fir trees. The narrow seas between the island and New Caledonia are beset with dangers to navigation in the form of swift currents, sunken rocks, &c.; while away up the gulf to Johnstone Straits, and beyond these to Broughton Archipelago, no sailing vessel unprovided with a pilot could safely steer its way. A single glance at the map will enable any person to perceive that the power holding fortifications on Vancouver Island, and on the Broughton Archipelago, would be in possession of a Gibraltar and a Cronstadt together, and grasp the Pacific in its clutch by the throat.

It is with the interior of New Caledonia, however, that we have at present to deal, with those auriferous tracts which promise to afford England as great an inducement to establish itself on the Pacific as California has given to the United States of America. To-day we know scarcely anything more of this territory than that it lies on the shores of the Pacific; that on the land it is bounded by the Rocky Mountains and the line of the American territory; and that in two of its rivers gold rushes with the current.

Sir E. B. Lytton, in his speech to the House of Commons, gave, in fact, a summary of all that is positively known both of the country and the gold fields that exist in it. "I will give the house," he said, "a sketch of the little that is known to us through official sources of the territory in which these new gold fields have been discovered. The territory lies between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific; it is bounded on the south by the American frontier line, 49° of latitude, and may be considered to extend to the sources of Frazer River, in latitude 55°. It is, therefore, about 420 miles long in a straight line, its average breadth about 250 to 300 miles. Taken from corner to corner its greatest length would be, however, 805 miles, and its greatest breadth 400 miles. Mr. Arrowsmith computes its area of square miles, including Queen Charlotte's Island, at somewhat more than 200,000 miles. Of its two gold-bearing rivers, one, the Frazer, rises in the northern boundary, and, flowing south, falls into the sea at the south-western extremity of the territory, opposite the southern end of Vancouver Island, and within

a few miles of the American boundary; the other, the Thompson River, rises in the Rocky Mountains, and, flowing westward, joins the Frazer about 150 miles from the coast. It is on these two rivers, and chiefly at their confluence, that the gold discoveries have been made. Hon. gentlemen who look at the map may imagine this new colony at an immeasurable distance from England, but we have already received overtures from no less eminent a person than Mr. Cunard for a line of postal steam-vessels for letters, goods, and passengers, by which it is calculated that a passenger starting from Liverpool may reach this colony in about thirty-five days by way of New York and Panama. With regard to the soil, there is said to be some tolerable land on the lower part of Frazer River. But the Thompson River district is described as one of the finest countries in the British dominions, with a climate far superior to that of countries in the same latitude on the other side of the mountains. Mr. Cooper, who gave valuable evidence before our committee on this district, with which he is thoroughly acquainted, recently addressed to me a letter, in which he states that 'its fisheries are most valuable, its timber the finest in the world for marine purposes. It abounds with bituminous coal, well fitted for the generation of steam. From Thompson's River and Colville districts to the Rocky Mountains, and from the forty-ninth parallel some 350 miles north, a more beautiful country does not exist. It is in every way suitable for colonisation.'

"Therefore, apart from the gold fields, this country affords every promise of a flourishing and important colony. In Charlotte's Island, which we include in this new colony, gold was discovered in 1850, but only in small quantities. Here I may, perhaps, correct a popular misconception. In Vancouver Island itself no gold has been yet discovered. The discovery of gold on the mainland was first reported to the Colonial Office by a despatch from the Governor of Vancouver Island, dated April 16th, 1856. The governor had received a report from a clerk in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Colville, on the Upper Columbia River. Further reports followed in October, 1856, testifying to the importance of the discovery. From experiments made in the tributaries of Frazer River there was reason to believe that the gold region was extensive: the similarity in the geological formation of the mountains in the territory to those of California induced the governor to believe that these would prove equally auriferous. Subsequent accounts, in 1857, varied as to the quantity of gold obtained, but confirmed generally the opinion of the richness of the mines, especially above the confluence of the Frazer and Thompson Rivers. The governor writes on the 15th of July, 1857, that gold was being discovered on the right bank of the Columbia, and the table land between that river and Frazer's. On December 29th he ascribed the small quantity found to the want of skill and tools on the part of the natives, who opposed any white men digging. The Indians were especially hostile to the Americans, and opposed their entrance into the country. Great excitement now prevailed in Oregon and Washington territory. An influx of adventurers might be expected in the spring, in which case collisions between the whites and the natives might be expected to occur. As far back as the first discovery in

April, 1856, the governor had suggested the system of granting digging licenses. The right honourable gentleman the member for Taunton, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, pointed out, in reply (August 4th), that it would be abortive to attempt to raise a revenue from licenses to dig for gold in that region in the absence of effective machinery of government, and left to the governor's discretion the means of preserving order. In the exercise of that discretion he issued a proclamation (December 28th, 1857), declaring the rights of the crown to the gold in Thompson and Frazer Rivers; establishing license fees of 10s., which, on the 1st of January, 1858, he raised to 20s.; and prohibiting persons from digging without authority from the colonial government. But this proclamation has virtually proved a dead letter, for, in point of fact, the government had no legal power to issue the proclamation, or cause it to be respected, he having no commission as governor on the mainland; and, indeed, his sole power has been the moral power of his energy, talents, and extraordinary influence over the natives. The manner in which he has preserved peace is highly to his honour. In a letter from the governor to the Hudson's Bay Company, March 22nd, 1858, he trusts that her Majesty's government would take measures to prevent crimes and protect life and property, or there would be ere long a large array of difficulties to settle. 'A large number of Americans had entered the territory; others were preparing to follow.' On the 8th of May he states to the Colonial Office that 450 passengers, chiefly gold-miners, had come from San Francisco; that they all appeared well provided with mining tools; there seemed to be no want of capital or intelligence among them; that about sixty were British subjects, and about an equal number Americans; the rest were chiefly Germans, with some Frenchmen and Italians. And I have here the pleasure to observe that he states, that though there was a temporary scarcity of food and a dearth of house accommodation, they were remarkably quiet and orderly. The governor then touches on the advantage to the trade of the island from the arrival of so large a body of people; but he adds significantly:—

"The interests of the empire may not be improved to the same extent by the accession of a foreign population whose sympathies are decidedly anti-British. From this point of view the question assumes an alarming aspect, and leads us to doubt the policy of permitting foreigners to enter the British territory *ad libitum* without taking the oath of allegiance, or otherwise giving security to the government of the country.'

"He states that 'the principal diggings at Frazer and Thompson Rivers at present will continue flooded for many months, and there is a great scarcity of food in the gold districts; that the ill-provided adventurers who have gone there will exhaust their stock of provisions, and will probably retire from the country till a more favourable season; that on the dangerous rapids of the river a great number of canoes have been dashed to pieces, the cargoes swept away, many of the adventurers swept into eternity—others, nothing daunted, pressing on to the goal of their wishes.'

"He again, in a letter to the Hudson's Bay Company, repeats his fears: 'How seriously the peace of the country may be endangered in the

event of the diggings proving unremunerative, and the miners being reduced to poverty, and destitute of the necessaries of life.'

"I should state that I have also seen private letters recently from San Francisco, giving an account of the extending excitement prevailing there, and of the number of Americans, of all other foreigners, and of the negroes preparing to start for Frazer River. In one letter it is stated that 2000 persons have already left, and 20,000 might leave before the end of the summer if the news continued favourable; but perhaps the news of the flooding of the waters may for a time retard so copious an emigration."

The minister for the colonies paints a very warm-coloured picture of the gold-yielding districts; so far as analogy can guide us, however, we may accept the fluent baronet's statement as being sufficiently credible. The best authorities concur in stating that the geological formation of New Caledonia is almost identical with that of Oregon and California; in point of fact, a continuation of rock, mountain, and alluvial drift, of the same physical structure as those of the two latter well-known gold-bearing countries.

A letter dated San Francisco, June 4th, will help us to realise something of the natural aspects of the new colony; and from it we can also learn how eager are the Californian diggers and store-owners to reach the new land teeming with so much metallic wealth.

"*San Francisco, June 4th.*—From the Frazer River country the news of the existence of gold on a large scale, that is, extending over a large area, continues to be confirmed. Since the date of my last letter very little gold has found its way from the new diggings to San Francisco. A steamer is hourly expected which may bring a considerable quantity; but we cannot expect to receive much until the population increases, and a trade is established with the new gold country, so that the non-arrival of gold here is no proof of its non-existence in the British possessions in the abundance reported.

"From California the exodus of miners continues. Some thousands have left by sea, and great numbers are going overland, starting from Shasta and from Yreka, in the northern portion of this state, and travelling through Oregon to the new El Dorado. This is a perfectly practicable route, and the journey can be accomplished in about eighteend ays.

"The excitement in the interior is universal. I was up the country this week, and returned only last night, so that I had an opportunity of judging for myself. From every point of the compass squads of miners were to be seen making for San Francisco to ship themselves off; and I heard of arrangements having been completed for driving stock overland, to meet the demands of the new population congregating in the Puget Sound country. One man had purchased a drove of mules, and another had speculated in 200 Californian horses, to supply the demand for 'packing.' These two 'ventures' were to proceed overland in two days hence. The speculator in horses had been at Frazer River, and returned convinced of the judiciousness of his 'spec.' He spoke of the overland trip with enthusiasm—plenty of game and of grass, a fine climate, and no molestation from Indians.

"In fact, I found the interior quite in a ferment, the whole floating population either 'on the move' or preparing to start; while traders, cattle-dealers, contractors, and all the enterprising persons in business who could manage to leave, were maturing arrangements to join the general exodus. Persons travelling in the mining region reckon that in three months 50,000 souls will have left California.

"As a natural result of all this emigration, business in the interior is becoming much deranged; the operations of the country merchants are checked; rents and the value of property in the interior towns are diminishing. Some of the merchants are 'liquidating,' and some have already moved their business to San Francisco, to take advantage of the business which must spring up between that port and the north-west.

"All the movements made in consequence of the new gold discovery have tended to benefit San Francisco, and she will, no doubt, continue to derive great advantages from the change. The increase of business will bring an increase of immigration to the city, for there is every reason to believe, judging from past experience, that a considerable proportion of the emigration from Europe, the Atlantic States, and Australia, will rest here; that the city will increase rapidly, and that an advance in the value of property must ensue in consequence.

"A very large immigration to the new mines is expected from the Canadas and from the Western United States overland; and if the means of cheap transit by way of Panama existed, no doubt a vast emigration would set in for this coast from Europe, particularly from Germany and France. The new gold country being British territory will favour emigration from these countries. In fact, so disgusted have Americans become by the misgovernment of California, that most of *them* even who are going to the north give a preference to the country on this account. They feel they will have greater security of life and property, greater order, and better management generally. Of this preference they make no secret.

"From Australia, too, the emigration will be large. In that country the cream has already been skimmed off the 'placers.' The efflorescence of gold near the surface has been dug out. Hence the results of individual exertions are becoming less promising; and the miner is a restless, excitable creature, whose love of freedom and independence indisposes him to associate himself in enterprises requiring an aggregation of capital and labour. He prefers to work 'on his own hook,' or with one or two 'chums' at most. This is the feeling in this country. There is another cause which will bring vast numbers of miners from Australia, and that is the great scarcity of water—a desideratum of the first importance. This first necessary for mining operations exists in abundance at all seasons in the new El Dorado, and this fact alone will attract additional miners to it from every mining country and locality in which water is scarce. Another great objection to Australia is the impossibility of acquiring land in fee in small parcels at or near to the mines. Many men take to mining as a means of making sufficient money to buy farming implements and stock with. As soon as this object is accomplished they abandon mining for

farming. Did not California afford the means of gratifying this wish, thousands of our miners would have left the country. As it is, with abundance of good land to be had cheap, I have found that a large proportion of the farms in the interior of this country are owned by farmers who bought them with the produce of their labour in the mines. The same advantages can be obtained in the new gold country, there being plenty of good land in the British territory in the neighbourhood and on Vancouver Island. It is to be hoped the government will make the price reasonable."

The *San Francisco Bulletin* has a letter from a correspondent on the Frazer River, dated May 25th, from which we extract the following passage:—"The morning I arrived, two men (Kerrison and Co.) cleaned up five ounces and a half from one rocker, the product of half a day's work. Myself and partner staked off two claims, and set to work making rockers, and no boards being off the bar, we had to go into the woods and fell and hew out our lumber. Kerrison and Co. the next day cleaned up ten ounces and a half from two rockers, which I myself saw weighed. Old California miners say they never saw such rich diggings. The average result per day to the man was fully twenty dollars—some much more. The gold is very fine, so much so that it was impossible to save more than two-thirds of what went through the rockers."

"The area of the auriferous country," writes another correspondent, "is as yet unknown. It seems to be, however, a continuation of the great Californian gold fields, running through Oregon (whose treasures have for years past been dug up) and the intermediate American territory of Washington, to the extensive British possessions washed by the waters of the Gulf of Georgia and of Puget Sound on the west, and extending northwardly and easterly to the Rocky Mountains."

One word as to the prospects held out by the new colony for agricultural emigrants. Lying near the banks of Frazer River there is a vast tract of low pasture-land, which might be made available for the breeding of cattle. Near Fort Langley, which is situated some sixty miles up Frazer River, about four miles of open land exist; and in the neighbourhood of Point Roberts, which is close to the line of boundary between the American and British territory, there is an additional tract of green, smiling prairie. About two hundred miles from the seacoast, along the banks of Thompson River, a magnificent extent of pasture-land stretches for some three hundred miles till it reaches Lake Okanagan, at one of the sources of the River Columbia. If native report can be relied upon, large tracts of level pasture-land are to be met with near Tchesatl, or Jarvis Inlet, which lies near the coast, midway up the Gulf of Georgia, and opposite Vancouver Island. A fine seam of sound workable coal has been discovered cropping out of the surface of the soil at Bellingham Bay, which is about twenty miles south of the boundary line, and is, consequently, an American possession. However, when the country shall come to be "prospected," a continuation of this seam will doubtless be found extending through the British territory. Already a small vein of the valuable mineral has been discovered lying on sandstone between Burrard Canal and Home Sound.

CHAPTER V.

GOLD AND ITS TESTS.

A FEW words on gold, where it may be found, what it is like in its native or virgin state, and on the difference between it and several ores and metals which resemble it, followed by a brief sentence or two on the geology of its parent rocks, may not be considered uselessly accompanying a description of a colony in which it is said to abound. The eye can only discern what it is prepared to see, is an axiom supported, as in numerous other instances, by a chapter out of the history of gold-finding. It was not until after Sir Roderick Murchison, who had visited and studied the geological formation of the auriferous chain of the Ural, had predicted that gold would be found in Australia, that people could see what was lying literally on the surface ever since they had come to the country, precisely as it had lain for ages before their arrival. The eminent geologist we have named was enabled to propound this view from his examination of the geological specimens and maps produced by Count Strzelecki. These rocks and strata corresponded so uniformly with the auriferous formation of the Ural, that he was convinced the locality which produced them would likewise be found to be gold-bearing. The count had brought his specimens from the great eastern chain of Australia; consequently, the rivers taking their rise in this range, its ravines, and the alluvial drift which had been derived from it by the action of water and the atmosphere, should contain the metallic spoil they had for ages been extracting from its hoards. Sir Roderick's remarks emigrated to Australia, appeared in the colonial newspapers, and served to open the eyes of one Mr. Smith to such a degree as to make him the discoverer of the gold that was sparkling on the surface of the soil. It will be as well, therefore, if the emigrant receives as much of the enlightenment of science as served for this Mr. Smith, now become an historical emigrant, and makes himself the possessor of a portable stock of knowledge, selecting it after the principles that guide him in making up his kit—viz., usefulness and simplicity; it being always worth our while to supply ourselves with the commodity which is hypothetically no load, instead of carrying an undue allowance of ignorance, which is certainly very heavy freight.

Gold and iron are found all over the surface of the globe. Iron is plentifully as well as widely spread; gold, though general, is scanty. Iron is never found unalloyed with other metals, while gold is in nearly every instance found pure. So small is the golden supply in many

districts that, although perfectly well known to be auriferous, they are not rich enough to be worked.

In the United Kingdom the precious metal is found in the Wicklow mountains, in Cumberland, in Wales, and in Scotland. China, India, North and South America, Asia Minor, and the islands of the Indian Ocean, are more or less auriferous countries; and of the European rivers, the Rhine, the Rhône, the Tagus, and the Danube, it has long been ascertained that they are auriferous, though so poor as to preclude the hope of washing their sands at a profit.

In point of fact, the gold found in Europe out of Russia, is too inappreciable to enter into our calculations. Before the discovery in California and Australia nearly all the gold of commerce, amounting to about 80,000 lbs. weight, and of a value of £5,000,000, was obtained from Asiatic Russia, Brazil, Transylvania, Africa, the East India islands, and the state of Carolina. This very general distribution of gold, combined with the fact that it almost always occurs in nature in its native or uncombined state, thus attracting the eye by its bright, untarnished appearance, clearly accounts for its being known as a precious article from the remotest periods. Accordingly its early discovery is not to be wondered at. It exists, as we have shown, in a pure state, is of a bright reddish-yellow colour, it will not oxidise or rust like the ignoble metals, and, being generally the produce of disintegrated rocks, which, together with other *débris*, the effects of aqueous and atmospheric action, is carried away by the floods into the valleys, and to distances varying according to the size of the metallic fragments and the force of the current, till finally it is deposited in dark glens and deep water-holes. Again, when the current has been intercepted by protruding banks, or checked by sand bars, the river's heavy spoil has been wrung from it, to be hidden in holes and crevices in the bank, and sown as golden seed throughout the sands of the river's bed, to afford, after long ages, the harvest of the "digger." Otherwise, when the stream has been diverted into another channel, the metal remains in the parched water-course, often absolutely on the surface, and often to be reached by merely scratching through the layer of alluvial drift which time has spread over it.

The modicum of science necessary to be taken with the emigrant is small enough. First of all it may be useful to detail the geological features of the countries in which, to-day, gold is found in the greatest quantity. These countries are the Ural Mountains in Russia, Brazil, California, and Australia. We shall preface our sketch of those districts with an outline of geographical science just sufficient to enable our readers to understand it. Following this we will furnish him with the means of distinguishing gold from those delusive companions, the gathering of which would afford him no recompense for his toil. The chief of them are yellow mica, iron pyrites, and copper pyrites, to which list man, considering nature not inventive enough, has added brass filings.

To a person acquainted with the results of geological science, a boulder, a pebble, or an accumulation of sand, clay, or mud, is an evidence of that mighty mutation of the earth's mass which is going on

now exactly as it has gone on for ages. He knows that not a square yard of earth which is now dry land but has once been, nay, several times, submerged in the ocean's waters; and that the pebble or the sand is but an effect of the disintegrating action of current or atmosphere upon the mass of parent rock, which, by their attacks, has been broken up into boulders and pebbles and gravel, or still further ground into sand and mud. Transformation, and not destruction, however, is the name of this unceasing action; for the atmosphere and the wave do but borrow the rock to build up an island or a continent, and the sea current only bites its way into one mainland in order to lay the foundation for a chain of mountains that shall ornament another. These rocks, deposited in layers beneath the sea waves, are called aqueous or stratified rocks, and in some of them gold is contained, occurring mainly through their mass, in veins or small fissures of from one or two to a few feet in width. To the question, How came these veins or fissures to exist? geology answers, By the igneous rocks having been forced through from below during a period of mighty disturbance, of which the earthquake and the volcano are also superficial symptoms. This upheaving and protrusion of the igneous rocks through the aqueous, caused many cracks and fissures to be formed, which, when the masses came to be cooled, increased in number. The igneous rocks, so called because they have all been molten or fluid by the action of heat, wherever they have come into contact with the stratified, have, by their intense heat, caused them to become partly fused; and this meeting has, in fact, produced a third series of rocks partaking of the characteristics of the first two, and called by geologists metamorphic rocks.

Reverting for a moment to the aqueous rocks, in order to make this sketch as clear and as practically serviceable as may be: the aqueous or stratified rocks are principally sand, clay, and lime rocks. Sand, sandstone, gritstone, gravel, and conglomerate form the sandy rocks; clay, clunch, marl, slate, and shale make up the clayey; while the lime rocks are chiefly composed of chalk, limestone, and marble. As we have said, through the long lapse of ages these rocks were deposited in water in layers or strata. The earliest and first formed are called primary; those which succeeded secondary; and the last tertiary—an order of superposition which the reader will understand must also be the order of their respective ages. It will be clear, also, that when these formations were deposited in the condition of sediment, either subsiding in sea, lake, marsh, or river, they would be interspersed with some of the animals living at the period. Almost all the stratified rocks contain these preserved remains, and are thus called fossiliferous. Again, the primary, or oldest aqueous rocks, should, according to this view, be characterised by the presence of ancient animals, or "palæozoic," which, accordingly, is the synonym science applies to them.

The igneous rocks are for the most part very hard, crystalline masses. They are of various kinds, such as lava, the produce of volcanic action, basalt, greenstone, porphyry, syenite, granite, which last is a confusedly crystalline mass of three minerals—quartz, felspar, and mica. The transformed or metamorphic rocks are gneiss, mica slate, chloride slate,

clay slate, &c. As the reader has observed, this transformation is due to the action of the intense heat of the igneous rocks when they were thrust through them, consequently any of the aqueous rocks may become metamorphic. It is found, however, that they are generally the changed primary rocks, and this for two reasons; firstly, because they are the oldest, and hence dating from the period when those mighty eruptions occurred; and secondly, because, being the lowest in situation, they were nearest to the source of heat. Our readers will now probably be able to understand the advice given by the late Professor Edward Forbes to the gold seeker: "This metal is found in connection with palæozoic rocks, or in tertiary drifts of a very recent epoch. Bear this in mind about gold, that it is useless to waste your time in searching for it in the older tertiaries or in secondary rocks."

Sir Roderick Murchison estimates the yearly produce of the gold washings of the Ural at £3,000,000. The metal is found on the eastern flanks of the Ural chain. It occurs mingled with quartzose sand and gravel, lying in the courses of former rivers; but at the mines of Berezovsk, near Ekaterinburg, there is an extensive mine, with vertical shafts and lateral galleries, which follow the quartz veins traversing the rock. "The rocks," says Professor Ansted, "in which the gold of the Ural Mountains and Siberia is found, are very variable in their nature, including granites, metamorphosed schists, and other igneous and altered rocks. In the Russian alluvial deposits containing gold, the quartz, pebbles, and fragments are those which yield the most considerably. In general the matrix consists of coarse gravel, not unlike that found near Woolwich; but there are also true auriferous veins inclosed in a band of rock, in which are many veins of quartz, with gold disseminated."

"It appears," says the same authority, in describing the geology of California, "that the district north of San Francisco, from which the gold has been obtained, is a broad tract inclosed on the east by a lofty and recently elevated tract, partly volcanic, partly trachytic, but exhibiting everywhere igneous rocks, perhaps not unlike much of that singular mass of quartz rock, porphyry, and jasper, which abounds in the Ural ridges."

In every one of the localities where the Australian gold has been found granite and metamorphic rocks occur, and quartz rocks are often mentioned. Rarely has it been found in the actual rock, but in the drift clay, sand, and gravel, or lying loose on the surface of the ground. This drift, which is formed of loose unconsolidated masses of clay, gravel, &c., varies in thickness from a few inches to twenty or thirty feet.

A letter in the *Melbourne Argus* gives this account of the Ballarat diggings:—"On the surface of the earth was turf in a layer of about a foot thick, below which was a layer of rich black alluvial soil, and below that grey clay; below that again was a description of red gravel, which was sometimes very good; then red or yellow clay, in which gold was found; and then a stratum, varying in thickness of clay, streaked with various colours, and scarcely worth working; and the next stratum was of hard white pipeclay, which was a decided barrier. Immediately above

it, however, was a thin layer of chocolate-coloured clay, tough and soapy. This was the celebrated blue clay, and was very rich."

Gold being about seven times heavier than any rock it has been found associated with, and something more than nineteen times heavier than water, it will consequently require a very strong current to carry it far from its parent site when it happens to occur in large fragments, or even when intermixed with large fragments of quartz, which may be called pure flint. Accordingly, when you come across large nuggets, you may conclude that you are some miles nearer the matrix or parent-rock which contained the gold before it was broken up by the waters, than you are when you discover the metal in a state of dust.

"In examining a river for gold," says Professor Bute Jukes, "it is in the inside curve of its bends, where sandbanks and spits are accumulating, or wherever the force of the current is slackened, and the materials carried by it are consequently dropped, that should be first searched."

The readiest tests for gold consist in determining the specific gravity or relative weight of the metal or dust supposed to be gold, and by the rougher method of ascertaining its relative hardness. Gold is softer than silver, copper, or iron, but harder than tin and lead. Consequently, if a small scale or nugget scratches tin and lead, and is scratched by silver, copper, or iron, and if it sinks rapidly in water, it may fairly be assumed to be gold.

In taking the specific gravity of gold it is useful to remember the specific gravities of the substances which resemble it. Gold itself, taking water at 1, will stand at the head of this little scale: its numeral is $19\frac{1}{2}$; brass filings, $8\frac{1}{2}$; copper pyrites, 5; iron pyrites, 4. The mode of obtaining a specific gravity is simple enough, and, in fact, only consists in accurately ascertaining the weight of the metal in air, and then immersing it in water and weighing it again. It will be found to weigh less in water than it did in air, and this loss in weight is precisely equal to a bulk of water exactly the same as the bulk of gold suspended in it. Upon this the original weight in air must be divided by the loss of weight in water, and by this means the specific gravity is obtained.

The following simple mode of detecting the presence of pyrites or brass filings in a quantity of gold dust is furnished by Professor Ansted:—"Place a little gold dust in a glass tube or earthenware saucer, and pour nitric acid upon it; then hold the glass or saucer over a flame, or upon a few embers, until red flames (nitric vapours) arise: if it be pure gold the liquid will not become discoloured; but if pyrites or brass filings should have been mixed with it, the acid will become turbid, green, and black, discharging bubbles of gas. After the ebullition has ceased the residue should be washed with water, and acid again poured upon it, when the same effect may be observed, but in a less degree; and if the experiment be repeated till all effervescence ceases, it will finally leave the gold dust pure."

CHAPTER VI.

HOW TO GET THERE.

ACCORDING to "Arrowsmith's Atlas" there would appear to be two available routes by which emigrants from Europe may reach New Caledonia; one by way of Canada, and thence overland, crossing the Rocky Mountains; the other either round Cape Horn or via the Isthmus of Panama. At present the latter route is the most expeditious and convenient, being only thirty-five days' sail from Liverpool; it also involves less risk, although the outlay of capital may be somewhat heavier. The tide of human traffic which will inevitably set in towards the vast prairies of Central America will, doubtless, tend to remove many existing difficulties; but much time and money must be expended and lives sacrificed before any appreciable modification can be expected, at least of such a character as to render the overland journey safe or desirable. To lovers of the picturesque, and such travellers as may be influenced by a passion for adventure, this route will necessarily possess irresistible charms. To the imagination of youth and energy, we can readily understand that severe privations amidst savage and hostile tribes of Indians are as nothing when compared with the absorbing excitement of perilous incidents by "flood and field," or the pleasure of gazing on the trackless wastes, stupendous mountains, and majestic lakes and rivers of the New World. We have no desire to exaggerate the danger of traversing this vast district; but, should any of our readers be contemplating this route, we would simply remind them of the thousands who perished in these desolate wildernesses during the gold fever of 1849, the very path they pursued being now indicated by human bones and human graves. Emigrants crossing the plains usually combine into large parties for security, their luggage and tents being conveyed in waggons drawn by mules. Each man should be provided with a pair of blankets, a buffalo robe, several pairs of waterproof boots reaching above the knees, besides one change of outward raiment and two of linen. Arms are indispensable as a safeguard against the treachery of the Indians, as well as for the purposes of the chase. These should consist of a good rifle and bowie knife, and a Colt's revolver, together with an ample supply of powder and lead. Washington Irving, in his brilliant narrative of a journey beyond the Rocky Mountains, entitled "Astoria," thus describes the scenery of the prairies:—"Boundless wastes kept extending to the eye, more and more animated by herds of buffalo. Sometimes these unwieldy animals were seen

moving in long procession across the silent landscape; at other times they were scattered about, singly or in groups, on the broad enamelled prairies and green acclivities, some cropping the rich pasturage, others reclining amidst the flowery herbage—the whole scene realising in a manner the old scriptural descriptions of the vast pastoral countries of the Orient, with ‘cattle upon a thousand hills.’ It is a land where no man permanently abides, for in certain seasons of the year there is no food either for the hunter or his steed. The herbage is parched and withered; the brooks and streams are dried up; the buffalo, the elk, and deer have wandered to distant parts, keeping within the verge of expiring verdure, and leaving behind them a vast uninhabited solitude, seamed by ravines, the beds of former torrents, but now serving only to tantalise and increase the thirst of the traveller. Occasionally the monotony of this vast wilderness is interrupted by mountainous belts of sand and limestone, broken into confused masses, with precipitous cliffs and yawning ravines, looking like the ruins of a world; or is traversed by lofty and barren ridges of rock, almost impassable, like those denominated the Black Hills. Beyond these rise the stern barriers of the Rocky Mountains, the limits, as it were, of the Atlantic world.” From an interesting series of papers contributed to “Chambers’ Journal,” we realise a vivid picture of prairie life. At daylight the whole encampment harness up, and proceed in one huge caravan, beguiling the time with familiar converse when they can; but as the road becomes broken, and intersected by morasses and streams, the help of numbers in dragging the mules, or extricating the waggons, is of the utmost importance, and supersedes every other thought. Days elapse without seeing another human being, except when a mounted Indian crosses the path, sweeping by like a whirlwind; and even if he happens to be near enough, hardly staying an instant to return the well-known sign of amity—the hand waved in the posture it would take in smoking a pipe. A camping place is selected as near to wood and water as possible, the animals being tethered on the best grass within reach. A guard is set at night, divided into two hours’ watches, to ward off the attacks of the natives, some of whom are continually in ambush, watching an opportunity to carry off cattle or horses. The limitless expanse of savanna over which the pilgrims are wearily “tramping” is singularly destitute of animal life. There is no covert even for birds, and very rarely a small herd of graceful antelopes may be seen in the distance, on the remains of which, when shot, the wolves gather to feast at nightfall. The passage over the Rocky Mountains will test the powers of endurance of the most hardy adventurer. “These hills of the Far West rise to the region of perpetual snows, and are upwards of 11,000 feet in real altitude; yet their height from their immediate bases is not so great as might be imagined, as they swell up from elevated plains several thousand feet above the level of the ocean. These plains are often of a desolate sterility, mere sandy wastes, formed of the detritus of the granite heights, destitute of trees and herbage, scorched by the ardent and reflected rays of the summer’s sun, and in winter swept by chilling blasts from the snow-clad mountains.” The defiles are exceedingly rough and

broken, and the travelling is painful and frequently fatal to burdened horses. Moreover, these wild regions are infested by the Crow Indians and various other tribes of restless marauders, who prowl about in search of plunder.

From the foregoing statement it will be admitted that we had sound reasons for recommending the route by sea under existing circumstances. Messrs. Seymour, Peacock, and Co., of 17, Gracechurch Street, have advertised their intention of despatching a succession of first-class vessels direct for Victoria, in Vancouver Island, and Frazer River, at the following rates:—

First-class passage	from	£60 to	£73 10s.
Second ditto	"	40 "	52 10s.
Third ditto	Married couples in one berth	45	0s.
Ditto ditto	Single people	26	5s.

An outfit can be obtained at any price, necessarily regulated by the means at the disposal of the emigrant. We subjoin a published list of the requisites for the voyage, with prices affixed:—

OUTFIT FOR 10s. 6d.		OUTFIT FOR 19s.	
			s. d.
Bed	10s. 6d.	Bed	3 6
Hook Pot		Pillow	0 9
Water Bottle		2 Blankets	5 6
Wash Basin		2 Sheets	2 6
Metal Plate		Counterpane	1 9
Drinking Mug		Hook Pot	0 9
Knife and Fork		Water Bottle	1 3
Tea & Table Spoons		Wash Basin	0 9
2 Sheets		Metal Plate	0 6
Counterpane		Drinking Mug	0 6
		Knife and Fork	0 9
		Tea and Table Spoons	0 6
			19 0

Other articles of wearing apparel and utensils for domestic purposes may be purchased in the same ratio. Coloured and white shirts, 1s. 6d.; towels, 6d.; woollen under-shirts, 2s. 6d.; elastic drawers, 1s. 9d.; cotton and woollen socks, 6d.; ditto stockings, 8d.; duck and jean trousers, 2s. 6d.; holland and alpacca coats, 5s. 6d.; beds, 2s. 6d.; pillows, 1s.; blankets, 2s. 9d.; sheets, 1s. 3d.; counterpanes, 1s. 9d.; double-barreled rifle, £5 5s.; revolver, 50s., &c.

For the information of such as may have decided upon proceeding at once to the diggings on their arrival at Victoria, we insert the following extract from a letter of the *Times*' correspondent in California and Oregon:—

"There are at present difficulties to be encountered in getting to the mines, owing to the swollen state of the Frazer River, and to the country near its banks being inundated by the freshets which prevail at this season from the melting of the snows of the Rocky Mountains, and in

consequence of the rapids, which necessitate long and wearisome 'portages.' Several persons have been drowned by the upsetting of canoes, which they were not acquainted with the management of. Indians are to be had in plenty to perform this labour, and at moderate wages—one dollar a day and meals. The following are given as the distances from Victoria to the trading ports of the Hudson's Bay Company, *en route* for the gold fields, viz., from Victoria, Vancouver Island, to Fort Langley, 80 miles; from the latter to Fort Hope, 60 miles; Fort Hope to Fort Yale, 15 miles; Fort Yale to mouth of Thompson River, 110 miles; thence to Big Falls, on the Frazer, 75 miles: total, 340 miles to the diggings as yet found to be the richest. The means and expense of getting from the coast to the lower and nearest mines are thus described by a person at Port Townsend:—"The mines commenced about fifteen miles above Fort Hope. Frazer River can be navigated by sailing vessels of considerable size as far as the mouth of Harrison River, or half way between Fort Langley and Fort Hope. Vessels sailing from Port Townsend charge ten dollars passage to Fort Langley, and fifteen dollars to Harrison River, allowing each passenger to take three months' provisions without charge for freight. At the mouth of the Harrison River the rapids commence, but form no very serious obstruction. Light steamers can go up to the very gold mines, fifteen miles above Fort Hope." Some rival routes to that of the ascent by the Frazer River have been tried, but experience is proving that this river affords the safest and easiest route.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's boats, which leave San Francisco twice a month for Puget Sound, will call to land passengers and freight on every trip either at Victoria or Esquimalt Harbour (close to the former), Vancouver Island, in terms of an arrangement made with the governor; and it is understood that the Hudson's Bay Company will make provision for the conveyance of passengers up the Frazer River by means of suitable steamers. This river is navigable a distance of 150 miles for vessels drawing four feet of water, all which will greatly facilitate." The *San Francisco Bulletin* says, "Arrangements are now being made for the transportation of passengers and freight to Fort Yale, the highest navigable point on the river. With a few light-draught river steamers on different points to ply between the rapids, and conveniences for portages around the most difficult points, the river can be navigated nearly its entire length. This, however, will require time and money to accomplish." It has been suggested that the most profitable employment for the Leviathan would be to send her round to Panama, and lay her on to run from that port to Puget Sound, calling on her way up and back at San Francisco, to land and take in passengers and freight. This suggestion deserves the serious consideration of her owners, as there are no international, legal, or Custom-laws impediment to prevent her plying between these two ports.

Messrs. Jas. Thomson and Co., of 6, Billiter Square, have also announced that a clipper ship will sail shortly for the newly discovered gold fields, and as the season advances other enterprising firms will be

induced to follow their example. We may as well add that British produce, provisions, liquids, manufactures, &c., are subject to no duties or charges in the Hudson's Bay territories.

Mr. Lawrence Oliphant informs us, in his "Minnesota and the Far West," that a railroad has already been chartered, to extend from St. Paul, a town on the very confines of civilisation, to the western boundary of the territory, from whence it will be ultimately carried on to the Pacific. Governor Stevens, of Washington territory, in which the western terminus is situated, upon the Straits of De Fuca (which separate Vancouver Island from the mainland), entertains the strongest opinion as to its practicability. The length of the line will be 1960 miles, some portion of which is completed. Nine hundred miles will have to pass through an undulating country, with no insuperable engineering difficulties, to the base of the Rocky Mountains, and over them by a pass nearly 6000 feet high, and down into a fertile valley, to cross another range at an elevation of about 4000 feet, rising abruptly from the Pacific. There is every reason to suppose that, by making a short bend to the north, both these ranges may be crossed at a much less elevation. Recent events will operate as an additional incentive to Transatlantic energy, and the project of the North Pacific Railway will be speedily converted into an accomplished fact.

The important information conveyed in the following communication to the *Times*, as containing the latest intelligence from the diggings, has induced us to insert it in its entirety.

"The *New York Times* publishes the following letter from its correspondent at San Francisco, dated the 21st of June :—

"The Golden Age carried east the freshest accounts from Frazer River, the Panama having arrived here the very day of her departure. What the effect of the wondrous news may have been upon the Atlantic world we can only judge from the vast commotion created in California. Throughout this state the new gold fever has continued for nearly two months to rage with increasing violence, and no one believes the climax has yet been reached. Thousands of our citizens have been deploring for years past that the halcyon days of 1849 had gone for ever, when all of a sudden they are back again in full blast. San Francisco looks like a mining city—just as she seemed ten years ago. Her streets are alive with red, blue, and grey-shirted men—rough, stalwart fellows, ranging about in squads with picks, shovels, pans, blankets, and primitive little rockers on their shoulders. Almost a decade has passed since such scenes were witnessed here. Shopkeepers are overrun with customers they never dreamt of seeing at their counters. This is the grand purchasing point of all sorts of miners' supplies for the vast hordes of people congregating here from every part of California, bound for Puget Sound. To complete their outfit a Colt's revolver (generally a pair of them) is deemed indispensable. There are thousands of Indians in New Caledonia, very different from our miserable Digger species, and every

one who goes there is prepared for self-protection. Some of the papers, among other vain efforts to check the universal stampede northward, have suggested that there was danger to be feared from these savage tribes, so brave and strong; but nobody is frightened. Civilisation in its advancing squadrons has never yet encountered any obstacle from that source which was not speedily overcome. Government may prolong so-called Indian wars with a few savages scattered over almost unsettled wastes, like Florida, and, making a great bugbear of the business, squander millions before they are finished; but there is no serious trouble to be feared on Frazer River, with its cordon of camps of well-armed miners. Men who have worked for years in the mountains of California know how to manage the red-skins better than any regulars in the world. To show the extent of the dread of interior newspaperdom caused by the recent exodus of population, Sacramento journals telegraphed two days since to their reporters in this city that they should send up only the worst features of the news then expected from the north. But the accounts came overwhelmingly confirmative of all, and more than all, that had before been received; they could not be held back, and have already coursed over the wires, adding fuel to the flames, and causing the fever to range with ten times its former violence. It is no longer doubted or disputed that a new gold country awaits development in the north, as rich in its resources as California or Australia. The magic spell of such a discovery is now being experienced within our own borders, and its influence cannot fail to spread far and wide over the whole domain of civilisation. Already it is found by the record that 9,216 registered passengers have left this port in steamers and sailing vessels for the new mines. It is well known that at least one-fourth of those departing are not enumerated in the clearances at the Custom-house. The steamship Cortes, which sailed on the 17th inst., really carried about 1,400 passengers, but only 900 were reported. So, too, the Panama sailed, June 14th, with about 900 passengers, when her clearance was for 570. Fully 12,000 persons have departed for the land of promise in the last two months, and probably the actual total is not less than 15,000. That the next two months will carry off an equal number there is no question; and it is safe to assume, from all present appearances, that the entire exodus from California during the first six months of the Frazer River fever will reach the enormous figure of 40,000. The rapidity and extent of this emigration have never been paralleled.

“When the steamer Republic was telegraphed, about half-past two o'clock on Saturday afternoon, the 19th inst., the town was taken quite by surprise. She was not expected so soon, the Pacific Mail Company having given information that she would not probably arrive before to-day. The sensation throughout the city was tremendous. Excitement and anticipation had been at a high pitch for two entire weeks, as no steamer had come down in the interim with later news than the Panama, which reached here on the 5th of June. The Pacific had arrived on the 8th of June, but did not bring later advices than the Panama. This was a long period of suspense, but faith in Frazer River had never once flagged among the general mass, although

some other papers of large circulation had seemingly wavered and striven to check the swelling tide of the northward bound. In less than an hour after the Republic touched the wharf several extras were issued, and the *Evening Bulletin* was out, flooding the city with the eagerly sought intelligence. At once assurance became doubly sure, and those who had hitherto hesitated and held back hauled down their colours, and went in pell-mell with all the enthusiasm of fresh converts. The question was no longer, Are you going? but, When do you get off? The special correspondent of the *Bulletin*, the letters of which are reliable, and have hitherto proved the most comprehensive and exact of those which have been given to the public, writes that the steamer Surprise reached Fort Langley, on Frazer River, June 5th, and proceeded to Fort Hope, arriving there next day. The steamer is the first that has ascended the river above Fort Langley, and could have gone to Fort Yale had her supply of coal not been limited. The navigation of the river for 150 miles from its mouth is thus established. The Surprise is a fine sea-going steamer that came round the Horn under sail some three years ago, owned by Captain Vandewater. That gentleman and Mr. Jessup, of the California Steam Navigation Company, which had chartered her, went up on the Surprise, about three weeks since, intending to place her on the river route, connecting with the ports on Puget Sound. They have made arrangements with the Hudson's Bay Company to carry out this project, and she is now running regularly from Victoria to Port Hope, connecting with the Pacific Mail Company's steamers from San Francisco.

"Captain Wright's steamer, the Sea Bird, is also employed in the same business, but probably she has not the power to stem the current above Fort Langley, as she tried to go up close behind the Surprise, but did not succeed on the first attempt. The Hudson's Bay Company have their own steamer, the Otter, also on the same route. They all charge twenty dollars passage from ports on the Sound to Fort Langley and above on Frazer River. These steamers will take up henceforth nearly all that travel.

"Between the 27th of May and the 5th of June fifty canoes had reached Fort Langley, containing an average of six persons each. The Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, with four directors, and Captain Prevost, of the British steamer Satellite, had proceeded to Fort Yale, where they appointed Custom-house officers. They were cordially received by the miners on the various bars along the river, and appointed magistrates from among them. The Hudson's Bay Company is pursuing a conciliatory course and keeping favour successfully. After the 1st of August Governor Douglass will enforce strictly the terms of his late proclamation, requiring every miner to have a license, for which he is to pay five dollars per month. He expects to have advices from the home government in England meanwhile, and the impression is that the same regulations will be then established as those which have proved satisfactory in the Australian colonies. The edict that no freight shall be taken into the interior on the steamers, or otherwise, except that shipped by and belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company,

is hardly likely to be strictly enforced for the time being. Miners are allowed to carry full supplies for themselves, but none for trade. The steamers carry no passengers, unless provided with a license. No spirituous liquor is to be sold to the Indians. Those who have violated this regulation have had their property confiscated, and are, and will be, severely dealt with. There is reported one case of an American trader from Bellingham Bay having had two thousand dollars of property confiscated by the Hudson's Bay Company for trading near Fort Langley. But while giving these particulars we are losing sight of the gold news. This, we have said, is altogether favourable. The gold is found everywhere, and even during the extreme height of the river parties are averaging from ten dollars to twenty dollars per day, digging in the banks or on the upper edge of the bars, nearly all of which are overflowed. Big strikes of from fifty dollars to two hundred and fifty dollars are frequently reported. Nearly all the work at present is carried on between Forts Langley and Yale, and for some twenty or thirty miles above the latter, an entire distance along the river of about one hundred miles. Some few are digging on Harrison River and other tributaries, where the gold is found in larger particles. Those who were engaged in mining on the forks of Thompson River show still richer yields, but have been compelled to leave on account of the high stage of the water, the want of provisions, and the opposition of the Indians. The gold where the most men are located (upon the bars of the river) is found in very minute particles like sand. No quicksilver has been used as yet, but when that is attainable their yield is sure to be greatly augmented. At Hill's Bar those at work had averaged fifty dollars per day the whole time they had been there. The Indians all have gold, and are as much excited as the whites. Fortunately, so far, no serious disturbances have occurred, save one near Fort Hope, in which an Indian chief and a white man were killed. The Indians were greatly aroused, but Mr. Allard, an agent of the Hudson's Bay Company, succeeded in pacifying them. While the river remains at its present height trails have to be resorted to above Fort Hope, and these are difficult. When the water falls the river will be navigable for canoes as high up as desired, with a few short portages. All the letters received by the Republic from the various ports on the Sound and from the diggings furnish corroborative testimony as to the extent and richness of the new placers. It is of no use to cite the various reports of individual successes in this or that locality. The impression of all who have gone is unanimous and conclusive as to the great fact of new gold fields now being explored, equal to any ever yet developed in California or elsewhere. No steamer has yet returned with more than twelve or fifteen passengers, and nearly every one of these had come down to obtain supplies for himself or his party left behind in the diggings. They all say they are going back in a few weeks, and that nothing is lost by not getting there in a month or so, as the river will remain very high for that length of time. And yet with this convincing proof of the common declaration of all who are on the ground, that there is no use of being in a hurry about starting, the people of California refuse to hold back one

single day, and rush off with resistless speed, making almost every sacrifice, and apparently regarding nothing valuable in comparison with a passage paid to Frazer River, and a bare sufficiency to set foot on the new diggings in the north.

"Since June 5th the following vessels have sailed for Victoria and ports on Puget Sound:—June 5th, bark Gold Hunter; June 7th, steamer Republic; June 9th, steamer Commodore; June 10th, schooner Giulietta; June 12th, steamer Panama, ship Georgiana, bark Adelaide, sloop Curlew; June 14th, ship William Berry; June 15th, bark Live Yankee; June 17th, steamer Cortes, schooner Kossuth; June 18th, schooner Osprey, bark Madonna; June 19th, steamer Santa Cruz. This is the list for the past fortnight of those vessels which have cleared at the Custom-house. Besides these there are several vessels in the trade with the American ports on Puget Sound, which sail under a general coasting license, and carry in the aggregate no inconsiderable number of passengers. The departures for Frazer River from San Francisco have not been less than 6000 in this period of two weeks. The steamer Republic sails for the north again on the 22nd, the Oregon on the 23rd, and the Commodore on the 24th. At least twenty sailing vessels—clipper-ships, barks, brigs, and schooners—are now advertised to sail with quick despatch, some of the smaller class to take passengers through to Fort Langley, stopping at Victoria to obtain permits to pass up Frazer River, at the mouth of which the British steamer Satellite is stationed to guard against unlicensed ingress. The price of first-class cabin passage by steamers to Victoria is sixty-five dollars; thirty-five dollars in the steerage. The sailing craft charge from sixty dollars down to twenty-five dollars. Nearly all the emigration hence will land at Victoria, as Governor Douglass will not issue licenses except at that point. The *Sacramento Union* estimates the emigration from this state to New Caledonia to have already exceeded 12,000. It states that from the 1st of May to the 15th of June 9,500 passengers left Sacramento for San Francisco, against 5,800 during a previous period of six weeks. The excess of travel over the different stage routes to Sacramento and Folsom since the fever set in is found by actual record to be 3,674. What the emigration by the San Joaquin has been is not computed, but the rush from the southern mines is even more general than from the middle and northern sections. The arrivals by up-river steamers in San Francisco during the last week have averaged five hundred nightly of the Frazer River bound, and it is safe to say that the departures from this city for the north have reached the same daily average. Those who have lately travelled through the mountains say that the principal roads in the interior present an appearance similar to the retreat of a routed army. Stages, express waggons, and vehicles of every character are called into requisition for the immediate emergency, and all are crammed, while whole battalions are pressing forward on horse or mule-back and on foot. Of course the shipments of merchandise from San Francisco are very large, to keep pace with this almost instantaneous emigration of thousands to a region totally unsupplied with the commodities necessary for their use and sustenance.

"Trade is brisk and good to outward appearance in this city. Complete stores of goods are now required to meet the new exigencies of this northern movement. This creates a different demand altogether from that which has regularly existed through the purchases of interior merchants, who merely replenish their stocks from time to time. But the stampede from the mining towns is quite likely to cause severe losses to the mercantile community of San Francisco, Sacramento, and Marysville. A great deal of the capital of the small traders in the mountains is in the shape of debts due to them from mining companies and individual miners. Too many are taking the Frazer River slide to make the condition of affairs at all healthy, and it will be pretty lucky if 50 per cent. of what is now due from the interior to the wholesale trade of the large cities is even realised. Thus the semblance of good times in this city may be somewhat deceptive.'

"'No one,' says the *San Francisco Bulletin*, 'outside of the city can form any adequate idea of the extent to which the Frazer River fever is now raging. This city being the natural outlet for all persons bound thither, whether from the mines or from our interior towns, presents a scene, or rather a continuation of scenes, not to be found elsewhere. The mania is by no means limited to miners, but seems to have operated with inflaming power on all classes alike. Even newspaper men, the most inveterate and pertinacious of all, are about leaving in considerable numbers. A lively business has been doing within the last few days in the hardware and clothing lines, as well as by the vendors of groceries and provisions. Almost all from the interior require a new fit out, in whole or in part. Revolvers, rifles, shot guns, and knives, pickaxes, shovels, and hoes, rocker iron drills and rifle boxes, flannel shirts, thick coats, and pants, water-boots, oil-cloths, and waterproof clothes-bags, and a thousand other articles too numerous to mention, have been in demand. So great is the rush that, although numerous sailing vessels are up for Frazer River, yet hundreds will be unable to obtain immediate passage, and we learn that hundreds more are waiting at Sacramento and Stockton for conveyance to this city. Scarcely one of the emigrants leaves San Francisco without disbursing more or less money, and it will not be too high an estimate to assert that before the lapse of another week one million dollars will be added to our daily circulation since the epidemic commenced raging. For the present at least emigrants will obtain all their supplies from California, and thus far we have seen no good reason to believe that such will not continue to be the case for many months yet to come, provided always the Frazer River mines are as rich as they have been reported.'

"'On Sunday,' says the *San Francisco Globe*, 'we received a visit from Messrs. Edward Campbell and Joseph Blanch, both boatmen, well known in this city, who have just returned from the mines on Frazer River. The narrative of these gentlemen exactly agrees with that of Mr. Henry Etting, published in the *Herald* of yesterday. Six of them joined in company, viz., the two first-mentioned, and Messrs. Timothy Sweeney,

Alexander Young, Patrick Cosgrave, and James Duncan, all of them boatmen in San Francisco. They left this city on the steamer Comodore, and took a whaleboat with them, in which they performed the remainder of the trip from Victoria to Hill's Bar, one hundred and fifty miles above the mouth of Frazer River, and two miles below Fort Yale. They mined for ten days in the Bar until compelled to desist from the rise in the river, in which time they took out one thousand three hundred and forty dollars. They used but one rocker, and have no doubt that they could have done much better with proper appliances. There were from sixty to seventy white men at work on Hill's Bar, and from four hundred to five hundred Indians, men, women, and children. The Indians are divided in opinion with regard to Americans. The more numerous party, headed by Pollock, a chief, are disposed to receive them favourably, because they obtain more money for their labour from the Bostons than from King George's men, as they style the English. They have learned the full value of their labour, and, instead of one dollar a day or an old shirt for guiding and helping to work a boat up river, they now charge from five dollars to eight dollars per day. Another portion of the Indians are in favour of driving off the Bostons, being fearful of having their country overrun by them. Provisions were exceedingly dear and scarce, flour selling at eighty dollars the barrel, bacon at seventy-five cents per pound, and butter at one dollar per pound. They reached Hill's Bar in twenty-one days from San Francisco, and recommended the Victoria route as the most favourable. Parties going by that route would do well to purchase a whaleboat in this city, and obtain a clearance from the Custom-house in Victoria, without which they will not be allowed to enter the river. The British steamer Satellite is stationed off the mouth of the river, and she has a launch, manned by twenty men, stationed at Fort Langley, to search boats going up. They also advise learning the Chinook language, which is very easy of acquisition, and will prove exceedingly useful. The winters are represented as being very severe, the river being frozen solid and the snow very deep. The present high stage of water is expected to abate about the middle or latter part of July, till when mining cannot be carried on to advantage. A party of twenty miners had started to prospect for dry diggings in the interior. They were accompanied by Indian guides, who said there was *hi you* (plenty of) gold to be found. Salmon was very abundant, the season having just commenced. No game had been observed above the mouth of the river, but they learned from some half-breeds that there were many bears in the hills. One species is described as being of a green colour, not very large, but exceedingly fierce, active, and dangerous to hunt. The gold on Frazer River was first discovered by a man named Charles Adams, who was afterwards shot and killed by his partner, Charles McDonald, during a controversy relative to some gold. McDonald is now at Whatcom. It is necessary to hire an Indian guide or pilot in ascending the river. Our informants are of opinion that gold is most abundant all through that country, and they intend returning in about two weeks.'

“ ‘ Among the mass of narratives,’ says a San Francisco paper, ‘ with which we have been favoured relative to the Frazer River mines, since the arrival of the Panama, we select the subjoined account from Mr. Henry Ettling, a young gentleman of this city, who has been for some time mining on that river at Hill’s Bar, one hundred and sixty miles above the mouth, and the same place known by some persons here as Kennison’s Bar. There were about seventy American miners on the Bar, and, previously to the late rise in the river, they were averaging on ounce a day to the hand, but since the freshet they have not made more than two dollars and a half to the hand daily. Mr. Ettling and his partner had never mined before, and were, consequently, green at the business. Nevertheless they realised together six ounces in the five days. Being unsupplied with a rocker they cut down a tree, made a rough substitute for a rocker, and perforated the holes with an iron spoon. The miners on the river appear to be well satisfied with their operations. Frazer River undergoes two falls each year, the first occurring in June, and the second in August. The freshet between June and August is caused by the melting of the snow in the Rocky Mountains, and pouring down through Thompson River. Provisions were not to be purchased at the mines, except from those who were about leaving for California to obtain supplies, and they disposed of their flour at the rate of fifty dollars a barrel. Mr. Ettling represents the Indians as quite peaceable, but exceedingly troublesome. As soon as a miner lays down his pick an Indian stands by to make use of it for himself, and when he lays down his shovel for the pick the Indian takes the shovel and relinquishes the other implement. They are all engaged in mining—even to children four and five years of age—and are as well posted on the value of gold as the whites. Mr. Ettling saw one Indian who had two hundred dollars in a buckskin purse, dug out by himself in one week. Mr. Ettling and his partner purchased a canoe at Port Townsend for fifty dollars, and navigated from there to Hill’s Bar in it. He was three days from Port Townsend to the mouth of the river, and seven days from thence to Hill’s Bar, one hundred and six miles above. Wild ducks and geese were plentiful at the mouth, but no game had been seen beyond that point. Salmon, however, was abundant in the river, and was easily taken. Boots, shoes, clothing, tea, coffee, sugar, rice, &c., could be purchased at Forts Langley and Hope, but no meat. In returning, he came from Hill’s Bar to within five miles of the river’s mouth in a day and a half, showing the great rapidity of the current. He saw two men weigh the proceeds of one day’s labour, which amounted to forty-two dollars and fifty cents. The British war steamer Satellite was anchored off the mouth of Frazer River, and no canoe was allowed to land anywhere that had liquor on board. The river is too high to be worked at this time, and Mr. Ettling advises those wishing to go to delay till the middle or end of July, and recommends the Bellingham Bay route, and thence in canoes. He says, also, that it is by all means advisable to learn the Chinook language, or Indian jargon, in general use among the Oregon, Puget Sound, and Northern Indians. The natives represent the winters as being exceedingly bitter and cold; but the weather was very warm when Mr. Ettling

left. Mr. Henry Kerrison, of this city, was at Hill's Bar, and had been very successful. It is the intention of Mr. Ettling and his partner to return as soon as the freshet shall have subsided enough to permit of mining.'

"We extract the following from the Puget Sound paper:—

"Mr. Joseph T. Bush, who came passenger in the steamer, informs us that he has been at work three weeks on Frazer River, near Sailor's Bar, during which time he made ten dollars a day with a rocker. He says there are parties on the river making as much as one hundred dollars a day with rockers. All of those at work, indeed, were doing well and in good spirits.

"Between Fort Hope and Sailor's Diggings there were, when Mr. Bush left, about three hundred and fifty miners, none of whom were making less than ten dollars per day, which is far below the average. Only thirty-five or forty men are at work on Thompson River.

"Above Sailor's Diggings the Indians are a little troublesome, imposing a tax of a blanket or a shirt on each miner who works on ground which the Indians claim.

"The river is represented as in a good navigable condition for canoes as high up as Fort Yale, beyond which point they cannot go with safety. The Hudson's Bay Company are actively engaged in repairing the fort.

"Mr. Bush says the mines increase in richness as you ascend the river. He comes to replenish his stock, and designs returning as speedily as possible.

"Two miners of Steilacoom returned last evening from Frazer River in a canoe, after an absence of six weeks. They state that during a low stage of the river they made fifteen dollars per day each. Four rockers near them were making from four to nine ounces and a half per day.

"Up to the latest accounts from Frazer River, fifteen persons in all had been drowned. A report was current on the river that two trains with provisions had arrived from the Dalles. Provisions are said to be abundant and cheap at Fort Langley.'

"The following is an extract of a letter dated

"*Sailor's Diggings, May 12th, 1858.*

"Stephen Judson and partner have not made less than twelve dollars a day on an average since they commenced. Day before yesterday they made thirty-three dollars (sixteen dollars fifty cents each), and yesterday thirty-one dollars. John Chapman with his Indian, Wash, Downey and Benzer, commenced work yesterday. John made at least an ounce; Downey and Benzer seven dollars fifty cents each. They found very coarse gold.

"We learn that a man named Charles Adams, well known hereabouts, was killed by Charles McDonald, of this place, near the mouth of Frazer River. It seems that they were in partnership in their operations in the mines, and that Adams was making off with all the funds

of the concern, when he was overtaken and shot dead. McDonald is said to be at Whatcom awaiting requisition and trial.

“All trading with the Indians is prohibited, and no merchandise of any description, beyond a miner's supply for six months, is allowed to pass up. Mr. Samuel M'Caw, of Steilacoom, had some two thousand dollars' worth of merchandise seized and confiscated at Fort Langley by the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company. The goods of Messrs. Tilton and Gibson, as well as their vessel the Black Duck, shared a similar fate.”

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