

FRASER'S RIVER DISTRICT, in BRITISH NORTH AMERICA. 7

6. I shall not fail to furnish you with full and regular accounts of every event of interest connected with the gold district, which may from time to time occur.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, (Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
 &c. &c. &c. Governor.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. HENRY LABOUCHERE to
Governor DOUGLAS.

(No. 5.)

SIR,

Downing Street, January 24, 1857.

I HAVE to acknowledge your Despatch (No. 28) of the 29th October 1856, relative to the discovery of gold in the Upper Columbia River district.

I have, &c.

Governor Douglas. (Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.
 &c. &c.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS to the Right Hon. HENRY LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 22.)

Victoria, Vancouver's Island, July 15, 1857.

SIR,

(Received, September 18, 1857.)

1. I HAVE the honour of communicating for your information the substance of advices which I have lately received from the interior of the continent north of the 49th parallel of latitude, corroborating the former accounts from that quarter respecting the auriferous character of certain districts of the country on the right bank of the Columbia River, and of the extensive table land which divides it from Fraser's River.

2. There is, however, as yet a degree of uncertainty respecting the productiveness of those gold fields, for reports vary so much on that point, some parties representing the deposits as exceedingly rich, while others are of opinion that they will not repay the labour and outlay of working, that I feel it would be premature for me to give a decided opinion on the subject.

3. It is, however, certain that gold has been found in many places by washing the soil of the river beds and also of the mountain sides; but, on the other hand, the quantities hitherto collected are inconsiderable, and do not lend much support to the opinion entertained of the richness of those deposits; so that the question as to their ultimate value remains thus undetermined, and will probably not be decided until more extensive researches are made.

4. A new element of difficulty in exploring the gold country has been interposed through the opposition of the native Indian tribes of Thompson's River, who have lately taken the high-handed, though probably not unwise course, of expelling all the parties of gold diggers, composed chiefly of persons from the American territories, who had forced an entrance into their country. They have also openly expressed a determination to resist all attempts at working gold in any of the streams flowing into Thompson's River, both from a desire to monopolize the precious metal for their own benefit, and from a well-founded impression that the shoals of salmon which annually ascend those rivers and furnish the principal food of the inhabitants, will be driven off, and prevented from making their annual migrations from the sea.

5. The officers in command of the Hudson's Bay Company's posts in that quarter, have received orders carefully to respect the feelings of the natives in that matter, and not to employ any of the Company's servants in washing out gold, without their full approbation and consent. There is, therefore, nothing to apprehend on the part of the Hudson's Bay Company's servants, but there is much reason to fear, that serious affrays may take place, between the natives and the motley adventurers who will be attracted by the reputed wealth of the country, from the United States possessions in Oregon, and may probably