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## VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

King's College, London, 15th April, 1855.

SIR,—While I sincerely rejoice to find you again endeavouring to bring before the Church the spiritual destitution of the West Coast of British North America, I am most anxious that no errors should appear in the statements made, or inducements offered by your correspondents, whether in respect of the character and condition of the people, or the position, productions, and capabilities of the country; and as, in the short notice given in this month's *Chronicle*, there are errors which appear to me of sufficient importance to justify me in doing so, I venture to request permission to point out and correct them.

And first, the harbour of Vancouver is said to be the only safe one on the coast. As that in use is at Victoria, and there is no harbour named Vancouver, this must probably be a misprint, but in any case it is far from being the only one; for the shores of Vancouver's Island are indented, as indeed is the whole coast, with sounds, gulfs, and bays, so numerous and so good as harbourage for shipping, that selection with our present amount of knowledge is impossible, but that of Victoria is not even among the best, being scant of water and difficult of entrance. The indented character of the coast commences at Juan de Fuca Strait, and extends north into the Russian territories, so that probably no similar extent of coast can show so many and so good harbours; but between Juan de Fuca Strait and St. Francisco, California, there is no good harbour.

What is called Queen Charlotte's Island may now be considered as a group of islands, none of which can have a considerable area, and the production of any quantity of gold there is not to be expected from washing, but what has been brought to this country and said to be of average quality has been found richer than average specimens of Australian or Californian gold. I think, also, that it is not likely, as the islands are of a very irregular and broken surface, that auriferous quartz in any large quantities will be found. The true mineral wealth of this coast and its islands will be found in coal, if not in copper; the latter is probably abundant on the main land, where gold in quantity is also most likely to be found, the hills in Queen Charlotte's Island being the extension of the coast line, which again