

singularly tumbled though rounded masses, but increasing in altitude and compactness as they approach the centre of the Cascade range, snowy peaks, pine-clad slopes, rugged cliffs and precipices, naked, shapeless masses of trappean and granitic rocks projecting upwards to vast heights, gloomy valleys and picturesque waterfalls; these, in constant succession, form an aggregate of sublime and wild, though strangely desolate and unattractive scenery.

Like North Bentinek Arm, we are told, in these general characteristics, though perhaps even more wild and bleak as the latitude increases, are the other inlets on the northwest coast. In all the mariner meets with water of vast depth and rarely encounters obstacles to navigation in the shape of rocks or shoals, though all are alike subject to violent winds and powerful tides and therefore unfavourable to navigation by sailing vessels of large size.

North Bentinek Arm receives at its head the waters of the Bella Coola or Nookhalk river, a rapid mountain stream probably 80 miles in length, which, rising beyond the principal crest of the Cascade Mountains, flows through and drains a portion of that range and, subsequently, the chasm or valley formed by the continuation of the mountain walls of North Bentinek Arm. Another stream of smaller dimensions, called by the natives Taantsnee, flows through a gap in the range to the north of the arm and discharges itself into its northeastern corner. On the 2nd of July 1862, at 1 p.m., the thermometer in the shade standing at 56° Fahrenheit, the temperature of the Nookhalk river was ascertained to be 49°7 Fahrenheit, and the same result was obtained with regard to the water of the head of the arm, which, owing to the volume of the Nookhalk, is fresh for some distance outwards.