

commodious harbours, almost unrivalled facilities for import and export, it would seem to require but a little well-directed exertion of energy and enterprise to make it the seat of a flourishing colony.

The island is situated between the parallels  $48^{\circ} 20'$  and  $51^{\circ}$  north latitude, and in west longitude between  $123^{\circ}$  and  $128^{\circ} 20'$ ; its coast trends in a north-west and south-east direction; its extreme length from Cape Scott to Point Gonzalez being 270 miles, with a general breadth of from 40 to 50 miles; its greatest breadth is 70 miles, being from Point Estevan, at the south entrance of Clayquot Sound, to Point Chatham, at the northern extremity of Discovery Passage; its least breadth, namely from about 20 miles south of Woody Point to Port Bauza, is 28 miles. There are, however, several places in which the arms of the sea, running inland from opposite sides of the island, approach very closely to each other. In the north, for instance, from Beaver harbour to Koskiemo, the extremity of an inland loch, running in immediately opposite, the distance is only 8 miles. From the Alberni canal on the west, to Valdez inlet, called by the natives Saatlam, on the east, the distance is only 22 miles; again, in the extreme south, a rough journey of about 7 miles brings the pedestrian from Sanetch, on the Canal de Haro, to the end of Esquimalt harbour on the Straits of Fuca; and from Nitinat, between Barclay Sound and Port St. Juan on the south-west, in a day and a half the savages pass over to the valley of the Cowichin in the south-east. The general aspect of the country throughout the island from the seaward is peculiarly uninviting. Dark frowning cliffs sternly repel the foaming sea, as it rushes impetuously against them, and beyond these, with scarcely any interval of level land, rounded hills, densely covered with fir, rise one above the other in dull uninteresting monotony; over these again appear bare mountains of trap rock, with peaks jagged like the edge of a saw, a veritable Monserrat, forming a culminating ridge, which may be said to run with little intermission, like a back bone, all down the centre of the island, from the northern to the southern extremity; nor does a nearer approach present one with many more favourable features in the aspect of the country.

The whole centre of the island—as far as it has been at present explored—may be said to be a mass of rock and mountain, and of the little available land which is found in patches along the sea-coast, by far the greater part is densely covered with timber, the removal of which would be so laborious as to make the bringing of the said land under cultivation scarcely a profitable undertaking. The little open land which there is, however, is in general rich, and had the British Government thrown the island open to the exertions of individual enterprise, the greater portion of such open land