

## APPENDIX.

---

### EXPLORATIONS IN JERVIS INLET AND DESOLATION SOUND, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

---

Mr. WILLIAM DOWNIE to Governor JAMES DOUGLAS.

SIR,

Victoria, Vancouver Island, March 19th, 1859.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency of my return to Victoria, after a sojourn of sixteen weeks in British Columbia.

I have been for the last month in Desolation Sound. The snow and rain set in so as to make it impossible to start over the mountains from the head of Jervis Inlet to the Upper Fraser River for some time.

I then thought it would be as well to visit the Klahous country, as I had heard a great deal about it.

We started from the head of Jervis Inlet on the 22nd of February for Desolation Sound, in a small canoe with four Indians, pick, pan, shovel, and rocker; came down the west entrance of Jervis Inlet, which is much better than the eastern. From Scotch-Fir Point, up the coast, it is shallow, and rocks and reefs running out a good distance from the shore.

It was most refreshing to come down on the gulf, where the land had all the appearance of spring, and after being so long up the inlet. No snow on any of the islands along the coast except Tarada. Savary Island has all the appearance of a farm under cultivation, from the abundance of grass on it: large patches of farming land make it look very enticing, but the water is scarce for farming purposes; yet there are excellent pastures for stock all the year round. The mainland opposite this island changes in appearance with regard to the rock formation: quartz and slate along the shore up to Sarah Point.

We arrived safe in Desolation Sound, which does certainly look somewhat desolate in a snow-storm; but I am well pleased with the prospect of this section.

This is the first time I have seen pure veins of sulphuret of iron, which looks very much like silver. The first I saw of it was a small square piece in the possession of an Indian: I offered him some tobacco for it, but he would not part with it, even if I gave him its weight in gold. I came across a number of seams of the same kind. It lies in the quartz, the same as gold. I have no idea that the gold is confined to Fraser River alone; and if it can only be found from the seaboard or on the rivers, at the head of some of these inlets, the country will soon be prospected.