

east, and that of the tributary north-east, about three miles up were discovered three copper ledges but no gold.

5. We also completely explored the Central Lake, which we found to be only from eighteen to twenty-two miles in length, nearly shut in by mountains, abounding in deer, fed by Johnston \* and Raymur's † Rivers, and emptied by Stamp's ‡ or the Mah-oilh River, which joins the Kleccoot or Somass about five miles from its mouth. The latter river flows into Stamp's Harbor at the head of the Alberni Canal, and is the emptier of Sproat's § or Kleccoot Lake, a many armed sheet of water, about sixteen miles long in its longest axis, and fed by Taylor's River from the mountains, § round which you can see the waters of Klay-o-quaht Sound. The latter lake is bordered in many places with open lands, suitable for pasture, and fine timber. From the mountains round the north arm of this lake I am in possession of a piece of silver ore; but from the source whence I received it, its existence, as Sir Thomas Brown would have said, "though not beyond the boundaries of possibility yet does not admit of a reasonable solution." Several small prairies border the Kleccoot River, two of which are being brought under cultivation by Messrs. Anderson & Co., the proprietors of the Alberni Sawmills.

On the 14th we commenced our journey homewards, by crossing the island from the mouth of the Somass or Kleccoot River, (navigable at high water for two miles by stern-wheel steamers, as is also the Courtenay River at Comox,) to Quall-e-hum, on the Strait of Georgia, where, after an easy march, we arrived on the 18th. The first portion of our route for six miles was through a very open thinly wooded fern ¶ covered country, well adapted for grazing. It is the principal hunting ground of the Opechesaht Indians; the trail is tolerably well marked. From here the route takes over a steepish ridge, 600 feet in height, from whence you descend to Horne's Lake, seven miles long. Keeping along by the borders of the lake until the end, we struck for the sea through an open thinly timbered track, gently sloping to the sea, and offering no impediment to travelling, with the exception of about half a mile of burnt and fallen timber, two miles from the coast. A five foot trail, fifteen miles in length, connecting the east and west coasts, could be easily constructed here at an average expense of seventy-five dollars per mile, and though the steep ridge mentioned might offer some obstacles to a wagon road, as

\* Matthew Johnston, Esq., J. P., Alberni; † Captain James Raymur; ‡ Edward Stamp, Esq.; § Gilbert Malcolm Sproat, Esq.

§ I explored this river in June, 1863, and distinguished the snow peaks belting it by the names of Sir William Gibson Craig, Bart, Lord Clerk Register of Scotland, I, Anderson Henry, Esquire, George Patton, Esquire, &c., prominent members of the Botanical Society, under whose auspices I pursued my researches.

¶ The cosmopolitan *Pteris aquilina*.