

Puget's Sound, they thought they might as well run up to ascertain the truth of the reports concerning the gold. When they arrived, the Indians were in force, and made so warlike a demonstration as to compel them, being few in number, to hasten their departure. Before they left they received a pencilled note from Mr. Rowland, a British subject, master of the sloop "Georgiana," who had proceeded thither only a few weeks before in his little vessel, about 40 tons, with a company of Americans, from Puget's Sound. The note informed them that the "Georgiana" was wrecked, and that all the party were in the hands of the Indians, who had stripped them of every thing. The "Damariscone" returned, and gave information to the United States collector of customs at Olympia, who forthwith chartered and fitted her up under the United States revenue flag, with a lieutenant and four privates of the U. S. Artillery, and ten volunteers, who found, on arrival, the whole party in captivity, and secured their liberation by donations of blankets and trinkets: three of the party rescued were British subjects. It is reported that lately several small vessels had sailed from Oregon for Queen Charlotte's Island, and three are endeavouring to procure passengers here for that destination. I have thought it right to address you with all the particulars, as far as I have been able to learn, in case you should deem it expedient to take any steps for the protection of the island.

Rear-Admiral Moresby, Commander-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) Geo. Aikin.

— No. 13. —

No. 13.
Governor Douglas
to Earl Grey.
15 April 1852.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey*; dated
Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 15 April 1852.

(Received, 13 July 1852.)

"THERE has been for some time past much excitement among the labouring classes on the subject of the gold diggings of Queen Charlotte's Island, to the great injury of the colony, which has, in consequence, lost many useful men. One of the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels sailed for Gold Harbour about the end of last month, with a strong and well-appointed party.

"The *Exact*," and another American vessel, which called at Gold Harbour since my last report, returned unsuccessful from that voyage, having been beaten off by the natives, though the American force was considerable, and well armed. Several other American vessels are reported to be on the point of sailing from the ports of Oregon for the same part of the coast. I have no reliable information from California, though the rumours in circulation lead to the belief that Gold Harbour will be the great attraction of the season."

— No. 14. —

No. 14.
Governor Douglas
to Earl Grey.
28 May 1852.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey*; dated
Fort Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 28 May 1852.

(Received, 9 August 1852.)

"I ALSO observe that your Lordship, for very important reasons, does not consider it expedient to prohibit the resort of foreign vessels to Queen Charlotte's Island.

Since my last report of the 15th April, advices have been received that the Hudson's Bay Company's brig "*Recovery*" had arrived safely at Queen Charlotte's Island, and taken unmolested possession of the only surface gold vein in Gold Harbour, with the consent and approbation of the native Indians, who have lived on the most friendly terms with the party ever since their arrival.

No foreign vessel was known at that time to be on the coast; but in the space of ten days afterwards seven vessels had assembled in Gold Harbour from the American ports in Oregon and California, having each from 40 to 70 miners on board. Finding the vein pre-occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company's people, the Americans sent out parties in all directions to explore the neighbouring coast; but their researches for gold were not successful, and four of the vessels,
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