

Reputed discoveries, and the geologic structure of the strip of territory west of the Rocky Mountain range, seem to indicate beyond a doubt that the northern boundary of British Columbia and the southern boundary of California are the two brackets which inclose a vast gold-producing area of similar if not of equal productiveness in all its parts. The correspondence of Governor Douglass with the British Colonial Office and the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, submitted to the House of Commons, shows that Governor Douglass, although he had been informed of the discovery of gold in April, 1856, has not up to this date, an interval of more than two years, ascertained how much gold there is in the mines, and refrains from expressing an opinion even more cautiously than we have thought proper to do. To the British Consul at San Francisco, however, he has stated that the mines were far richer than he had had any idea of. What Governor Douglass's 'idea of' may have been, we are not informed.*

In February last the Derby ministry came into power, Sir E. Bulwer Lytton having the office of Secretary for the Colonies. Under date of July first, he communicated to Governor Douglass a general approval of his course in asserting the dominion of the Crown over this region, and the right of the Crown over the precious metals. He instructs him, however, that it is no part of the policy of the Government to exclude Americans or other foreigners from the gold-fields, emphasized the necessity of caution in dealing with the international questions which are likely to arise, and wherein so much must be left to his discretion.

On the eighth of July Sir E. Bulwer Lytton introduced a bill for the formation and government of a colony in this district, to be called New-Caledonia, afterward changed to British Columbia, both alike misnomers. The bill, which passed without opposition, empowers the Crown for a period limited to five years, to make

* DIFFICULTIES of a serious nature have been anticipated with the native Indians of British Columbia. One year ago Governor DOUGLASS wrote to Mr. LABOUCHERE, the then Secretary of the Colonies, that they had 'taken the high-handed though probably not unwise course, of expelling all the parties of gold-diggers composed chiefly of persons from the American territories, who had forced an entrance into their country.' The Hudson's Bay Company did not oppose the Indians in this matter, but allowed their servants and the early diggers to be hustled out, and to lose the reward of their labors many times. During the year some few difficulties have occurred, and there has been blood shed; but whether because of the discreet conduct of the miners or the native perception of their own permanent inferiority, in view of such an influx of a more powerful race, the collisions have not been so frequent or disastrous as were anticipated. It is clear that in a fight between the miners and the Indians, however successful the latter might be at first, in the long run the former would win, and eventually the process of extermination of a once powerful race, begin and go on to a rapid end.

It appears from the commonly received authorities, that the Indians of British Columbia, like those of Washington and Oregon Territories, are fierce and intractable; civilized to the extent of clearly comprehending the distinction between *meum* and *tuum*; willing to steal, yet anxious to prevent theft of their gold; active, brave, well-formed, and skilful in the use of weapons, of which they have a good supply. Their principal article of food is salmon. In summer they live in shanties of slabs, and in winter, in holes in the ground, covered with slabs and dirt. Their mining is rude and intermittent. The Indians in Puget's Sound (Chenooks) are said to be an inferior race. Those up the river are the most elevated. The latter demand chastity of their women, build forts large enough to hold six or seven hundred families, and canoes that will hold a hundred persons. They use little paint and no tattoo. There are two principal tribes, and these hate each other as badly as Coorsen's Delawares and Hurons. The number of Indians in British Columbia it is impossible to compute. Excepting the few factors of the Hudson's Bay Company, they have been the only inhabitants. The inhabitants of Washington and Oregon Territories number about 39,712. There are nearly as many to the square mile in the more northern territory.