The Weekly British Colonist.
AND CHRONICLE.
Saturday, July 4 1868.

Cruise of H. M. S. Sparrowhawk.

(CONCLUDED.)

We left Beaver harbour at daybreak on the 31st, passing through Goletas Channel into Queen Charlotte Sound, through Fitzhugh Sound and Lama Passage, anchoring off Bella Bella late in the afternoon. Between Beaver harbour and the commencement of Charlotte Sound, an extensive group of islands exist, low and undulating, the formation being that of a recent sandstone interspersed here and there by dark bands of shale indicative of the existence of coal. The channel between the island and mainland is a sheltered one and admirably adapted for steamers, the only portion at all hazardous being the northern exit, Newitti Bar, over which the soundings are not more than 1½ to 3 fathoms, from here across Queen Charlotte Sound a distance of about 20 miles open to the ocean swell of the North Pacific is the only portion at all exposed in the passage to the northern portion of our possessions, the rest being sheltered navigation; perhaps the most wonderful that can be seen in any part of the world; indeed we believe few countries possess such an extensive seaboard in proportion to the coast line; a series of channels and arms of the sea that may be pursued without interruption or exposure to the oceanic swell. The passage through Fitzhugh Sound was bounded on either side by a succession of mountains of varying height from one to three thousand feet clothed from base to summit with pines which here began to assume somewhat of a stunted aspect, large tracts on the sides of the hills appearing blasted as if swept by a devastating hurricane, in other places broad avenues were cleared away by snow slides, the trunks lying prostrate in every direction. Numerous islands were passed, our course winding through a succession of narrow crooked passages and canals of varying width, at times so narrow as almost brushing the foliage of the pines on either side. At Bella Bella we found the Indians had abandoned the small island on which they previously lived and had taken up their residence on the opposite shore. Very few were however here, being nearly all away at the Nass River fishing, the few that remained being down with measles which had been very fatal here; their treatment being during the heat of the fever to plunge into the sea and remain for hours. Next morning, June 1st, we left Bella Bella passing through Seaforth Channel into Milbank Sound thence through Klemtoo Passage, Finlayson Channel into Greenville Channel anchoring late in the evening in Lowe Inlet. At Bella Bella we were warned of the existence of a rock lately discovered in Seaforth Channel at the entrance to Milbank Sound, on which one of the steamers going to Sitka had lately struck upon, but which we managed to avoid. Our course during the day lay through a succession of sheltered channels enclosed by precipices and lofty mountains terminating in fantastic shaped peaks and pinnacles of rock towering up into the skies, their summits clothed with a glittering mantle of perpetual snow, numerous cascades thundered down the precipitous sides of cliffs upwards of three thousand feet in height, their origin looking in the distance like silvery threads, while from the numerous lateral valleys rushed a succession of mountain torrents The shores jutted out in frequent promontories opening into harbours and large sheets of water, looking like lakes, above which towered in indescribable beauty and majesty, brilliant snow-clad peaks in strong relief against the blue sky. But beautiful as these calm blue waters were, lying placid as lakes, with every variety of point and bay, the quiet and stillness undisturbed except by the plunge of a frightened seal or the flight of a flock of ducks or northern divers soon becomes monotonous, even the emerald green pines assume a sombre character, and one longed for the sight of a canoe, a log cabin or cultivated land, and even the appearance of an Indian cemetry, with its coffins placed high up in the trees, and the usual display of tattered blankets and flags was hailed with satisfaction as a variety, silence and shade profound so brooded over the scene. At Lowe Inlet we found the surveying vessel Beaver, and had barely time to ascend to the top of the Inlet by daylight. It is a picturesque snug little harbor, about half a mile broad and two miles long, walled in on each side by granite hills, rising from 800 to 2000 feet, numerous small cascades trickle down the surface of the rocks, and at the top of the Inlet a river falls about ten feet over a granite ledge into the Inlet; beyond this appeared another cascade, close to which the river widens into a lake. Next morning, June 2nd, we left, passing through Greenville Channel and Chatham Sound, but owing to a dense fog did not get on to Metlakahtla till the evening. On passing up the Greenville Channel the scenery partook much of the same character as that already described, snow-covered mountains of massive grandeur towering up on every side, cleft by deep dells and ravines, down which torrents raved with foam and thunder, leaping from cliff and summit, rendering the atmosphere moist with their spray, like the falling of a dense Scotch mist. The lateral valleys appeared to extend from east to west, containing bowl shaped hollows marking the position of mountain lakes; everywhere the rocks showed indications of glacical action, being extensively grooved and striated, while from time to time the bright blue glint of ice on some of the more distant heights showed that this influence was still active. At Metlakahtla we found some marks of progress since our last visit about a year ago, a commodious market-place has been built and the saw-mill is in progress, but the soap manufacture owing to some chemical shortcoming turned out a failure. Admiral Hastings next morning met the assembled inhabitants in the Church and addressed them, saying how gratified he was to see the progress they had made in the arts of civilized life, that he begged to assure them of the Governer's sympathy and protection, who would not fail to protect the mission from any molestation. The question as to what had best be done with the three slaves who had escaped and taken refuge at the Mission was brought forward by Mr Duncan. The Admiral in reply stated that slavery did not now exist under British rule and that although he would not consider it justifiable to take slaves out by force from the tribe they were among, yet if they escaped to the Mission or on board ship he would consider himself justified in protecting them. P Legaic, one of the chiefs, then replied in Tshmsean, which was translated by Mr Duncan, he expressed how gratified they all were by this visit, being like children crawling before they were able to walk, the assurance that they would be protected made their hearts glad and knowing that they would be looked after would prevent them from revenging their own injuries The Admiral then adjourned to Mr Duncan's house, where the school children were assembled, amounting to about fifty, including fifteen girls, boarders in the house. A class was examined in English reading, copy books were looked at, and a few songs in English and Tsimpsean were very sweetly sung by the children, whose progress was very gratifying. The Mission Indians dress in English clothing and address you with 'how do you do, sir,' 'thank you, sir;' but go into their houses and you find that they have thrown aside that clothing for a blanket, and that their knowledge of the English language is that of a parrot, and confined to a few set phrases; in fact it is merely the gloss of civilization and saturated with specific disease, as the adults here are in common with all the Indians round the coast the hope of future years must rest with the rising generation. The numbers now belonging to the Mission are 374, of whom 87 are children, and perhaps about 100 more, who are living with their friends as casual visitors, but who have not yet professed Christianity.

Late in the afternoon we left for Fort Simpson arriving there about seven in the evening, where we found Messrs Cunningham and Hankin in charge of the Fort, the former chief trader Mr Manson being about to start to take charge of a new establishment on the Stickeen. The village was thinly peopled, most of the tribe being up the Nass fishing, those left behind either suffering from measles or recovering from an attack; those visible were in very deep mourning, displaying their grief by short cropped hair and blackened faces, two of their principal chiefs having lately been killed in a drunken brawl up the Nass river, which they had revenged in the usual manner by killing five of the first Nass tribe they had come across, consisting of three Mission indians and two of their friends from the interior. At the end of the village we observed rather a characteristic memorial of a chief who had lately died; on the top of a pole about 30 feet high was placed his effigy as large as life, bearing under his right arm his crest engraved on a copper plate 6 feet by 3, the top of the pole being draped with black cloth, while at the foot was carved a life like representation of a bear carrying in its mouth another copper plate. Such armorial distinctions strongly reminding one of the similar practice in May Fair in regard to escutcheons. All the houses are decorated with the crests of the residents, the carvings of the different totems representing birds and wild animals having in many cases a very artistic finish, but numerous as they are they are all reducable to four, the eagle, raven, bear and wolf, the others being related to those. At noon we left for the mission at the the mouth of Naas river passing the extremity of the Chympsean Penninsula named by Vancouver Point Maleskyne and entering Observatory Inlet, one of those numerous canals that Vancouver tried through which to find the long sought north-west passage. This inlet runs in a north-easterly direction and is about 1½ miles in breadth, having at its entrance on the south side Point Maleskyne and on the north Point makes the extremity of the Prince of Wales Island, the southern extremity of which by the the treaty of 1825 is the beginning of the Russian (now American) Possessions, while from the entrance to the Portland Canal diverging at Point Ramsden in a north-west direction and 21 miles above Point Maleskyne begins the boundary line of the 10 marine league coast strip. Above this about 21 miles is Salmon Cove the seat of the mission and a short distance beyond which the Inlet terminates and the Nass River discharges itself. The mission consists of 4 or 5 houses, with a resident population of about 40, and is situated on the same spot that Vancouver placed his observatory on his visit here in July, 1793, a very correct sketch of which is given at page 332, vol. 2 (folio edition); the river, however, as declined there, being now uearly a quarter of a mile further west. The situation is on a patch of delta land, a wildness of snow-clad mountains, rising to the height of 3000 or 4000 feet; immediately behind, sparsely covered with stunted and scraggy pines; a scene of almost perfect desolation. Mr Tomlinson, the Missionary, who has here taken up his residence, we hope will meet with success; he intends building a church, and hopes ultimately to attract the natives from the villages, distant about 14 miles, up the river. A tribe, numbering about 1000, and speaking a language a dialect of the Tsimpsean, which seems to extend inland as far as the McKenzie River, while all along the coast the chiefs of tribes speaking a totally different language, all more or less acquire it, looking on it somewhat in the same light as a Court language. Mr Tomlinson being also a medical man, contemplates the erection of an hospital. A medical mission will be attended on this coast with the best results, the contact of the whites having degenerated the Indians, both morally and physically, and we owe it to ordinary philanthropy to endeavor to mitigate those ills that this has produced, and now such an attention to these physical ills, combined with regard for their social, mental and moral improvement, will undoubtedly be attended by the best results. An institution supplying properly prepared food well ventilated rooms, and good nursing, will be the greatest possible advantage. The water at Salmon Cove appeared much discolored and contained a large amount of sediment, the density according to the hydrometer being 100·6 and the temperature 48° The discoloration was noticed by Vancouver, as also the strength of the undertow; but he failed—as in the case of the Columbia and Fraser—to discover the river. At noon next day, June 5th, we left, arriving and anchoring in Metlakahtla roads that night, proceeding next morning (6th) through Ogden Channel and anchoring in the evening in Cowquitz harbor, Queen Charlotte Island. The passage through Ogden Channel was between a succession of low and broken islets, the prevailing vegetation being yellow cypre (*cupressus nookensis*), the numerous passages between the Islands, forming a net work of irregular sheltered water communication, deep and narrow but abounding in anchorages, through which channels and in which harbors the Great Eastern might pass and anchor securely. At the exit to Ogden channel are a succession of heads and islands named after the officers of the Sparrowhawk, such as Dolphin and Gibson Islands, Comriel Head, etc., and who had on this occasion the pleasure of seeing for the first time their namesakes. Between this and the entrance to Skidegate channel, Queen Charlotte Island, is a distance of 40 miles. The soundings are very shallow, varying from 8 to 13 fathoms; while over the Skidegate Bar, the entrance to Cowquitz harbor, the depth is not more in some places than from 8 to 10 feet, after passing which the channel is deep and broad and the harbor a safe and capacious one. On approaching the land about Skidegate appears low lying and gradually slopes towards the central mountainous ridge of the island, which runs in a N.N.W. and S.S.E direction. At the entrance of th harbor numerous masses of a coarse conglomerate were observed while about 50 yards distant from the beach the land appears slightly elevated, assuming a terrace-like aspect, which on subsequent examination was found to be a raised beach, in which were imbedded numerous recent shells. The only buildings on shore are a dwelling house, a store, and some other sheds belonging to the Coal Company and where we found a superintendent and two miners; there are no Indians now here, having been ordered away at our last visit about a year ago. Next morning, 7th, we went to examine the mine, ascending by a steep and difficult trail the entrance to the mine being as found on measurement by the anieroid 600 feet above the sea level, and a distance of about a mile and a half, the trail lay through a forest of the largest hemlock, (abies mertensiana) we have ever seen, many of the trees we should think averaging 40 feet in circumference, while interspersed were good sized cedar and menzies spruce with a thick underbrush of sallal and Pannax Horrida. Several detached boulders of sandstone were passed and about 50 yards below the mine a sandstone reef cropped out. The workings are carried on in a ravine, a tunnel in length about 210 feet having been run in about 40 feet below where the coal originally was found cropping out. About 120 feet of slate was tunneled through when sandstone was come upon, 46 feet further the coal bed was struck dipping E N E at an angle of 80 degrees as measured by the clinometer, the breadth of the seam being 6 feet, but divided into two parts by the intrusion of slate. The walls consist of slate on the one side, and sandstone on the other—the sandstone, in all probability, forming the roof, and the slate the floor; but as the strata here have been tilted up and fractured—the coal lying in synclinal trough—it is difficult to say what the normal relation of the measures are. The tunnel is about six feet in breadth, and eight feet in height, and at present they are working that portion of the seam which is free from slate and about three and a half feet thick. About 100 tons of coal had been got out, having all the appearance of anthracite coal of good quality, having a good lustre irredescent compact and hard, breaking with a conchoidal fracture and behaving under the blowpipe in a similar manner as compared with Welsh anthracite, burning with very little flame. The slate wall, or more properly speaking the black shale, contains numerous fossils, a collection which was made *in situ*, including several Bivalves resembling arcas (?) some joints of an encrinite, or orthocerite and several impressions of Dicotyledonous leaves. The future prospects of the mine, we think, are very promising; of course everyone knows that anthracite is debituminised ordinary coal and that this occurs where uplifting or metamorphic action has taken place, such as in the vicinity of trap dikes. Here we think that both elevation and the intrusion of trap dikes have had to do with this change, as the top of Mount Seymour close to, it is said, to consist of Feldspathic Trap, and we have seen at least one trap dike in a neighboring ravine. Of course faults are likely under such circumstances to be met with and it is not impossible that as the centre of disturbance is receded from, the bitumen will increase. Of this island, second only in importance to Vancouver, being 160 miles long and 60 miles in varying breadth, we are almost as ignorant to-day as regards its physical geography, harbors, resources, people, etc, as at the period of its discovery by La Perouse in 1786. Indeed we believe it is laid down on the charts about 9 miles too much to the westward. The shallow roundings between it and the mainland, the absence of certain animals such as deer, racoons, etc, so common on the continent, suggest peculiar geological questions relative to its age. Lakes of considerable extent are said to exist in the interior, and numerous open praries, gold has been found and copper and other minerals are known to exist. The Hydahs who inhabit the island are said in all to number about 5000, they live principally by fishing, halibut of enormous size being caught here, one of which brought alongside during our stay weighed 96 pounds; dogfish are also numerous, the natives preparing large quantities of the oil. On the morning of the 8th we left Skidegate and steamed on, arriving at Knox Bay on the evening of the 9th, proceeding next morning and anchoring in the evening in Esquimalt harbor.

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF the Mechanics' Institute hereby give notice that the Sixth Industrial Exhibition of that Association will be held some time in August next, in a building to be erected for the purpose in Union Square in this city. Every preparation will be made to accommodate exhibitors and visitors with a view to make the Exhibition profitable, instructive and pleasant to all parties.
During the three years which have intervened since the holding of the last Exhibition in this city the manufacturing, mechanical, scientific and useful and ornamental arts have made unprecedented progress on this coast, and it is believed that the proposed Exhibition will exceed any other in value that has ever been held on the shores of the Pacific.
The plan of building to be erected, which has been adopted by the Board of Directors, it is believed will prove to be the best adapted, both for display and convenience of the public, of any building ever erected in the State. The building will be perfectly water tight, being covered with a shingle roof, so that no damage from the elements can be anticipated.
All parties who are interested in any of the branches of Manufactures, Mechanics, or the Arts and Sciences are invited to exhibit in the proposed Exhibition, and to share in the publicity and consequent profit which always attends such enterprises. Suitable premiums will be offered, and the specific date of opening the Exhibition will be published at some future time.
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