

REPORT.

THE voyage from Victoria to North Bentinck Arm, in length about 440 miles, affords those who perform it an opportunity of witnessing some of the most intricate, and perhaps the most wonderful inland navigation in the world. The steamer course winds through an archipelago of surpassing beauty—*islands of almost every size and shape, presenting an ever-recurring succession of mountain and valley, headland and bay, and embracing all the beauties of alternate prairie and woodland scenery.*

North of Jervis Inlet the mountains which cluster round it and the other Inlets to the south of it, and which, from their detached position, have been spoken of as a distinct Coast range, become blended by continuous chains with the superior crest of the Cascade Mountains which, from this point northward, may be said to run in a general northwesterly direction, parallel, or nearly so, to the coast, and distant from it about 50 miles. This chain, which appears to increase in altitude with the increase of latitude, is here and there partially pierced by the numerous deep-water arms of the sea which form the principal characteristic feature of the whole western coast-line of British North America, and, extending inland to distances of from 20 to 100 miles, have received severally the names of Arms, Inlets, Sounds and Canals.

By the few who, for trading and other purposes, have penetrated these arms of the sea strange stories are told of the grand and gloomy character of the neighbouring scenery. Glaciers, rarely met with elsewhere in the country, are here of frequent