rain, hail, and snow. The winter season is subject to the same vicissitudes, though not in such extremes. Mr. A. C. Anderson, late chief trader of the Hudson's Bay Company's service, a gentleman personally known to me, and on whose evidence I would place reliance, states that snow begins to fall in the mountains early in October; that the summer climate about the forks of the Thompson River is dry, and the heat great; that during winter the thermometer indicates occasionally from 20° to 30° below zero of Fahrenheit, but that such severe cold seldom lasts on the upper parts of Fraser's River for more than three days. The thermometer will then continue to fluctuate between zero and the freezing point, until, possibly, another interval of severe cold arrives.*

* The Columbian correspondent of the Times (Feb. 6, 1862) says: 'The approaches to the country are now sealed to every means of travelling except on snow shoes, for between the Forks of Quesnell, the nearest inhabited place, and Cariboo, there are eighteen to twenty feet of snow;' and (March 25, 1862) 'the Chinese who came to this country cannot endure the rigour of the British Columbian winter; consequently, they have nearly all left for California.'

In *Blue Book*, part iv. on British Columbian affairs, issued on the 1st of April of this year, I find the following remarks from Governor Douglas in respect to climate:—

Page 4.—'The roads leading into the country from Hope and Yale have, in consequence of the great depth of snow in the mountain passes, been impassable since the beginning of winter to any other mode of transport than by Indian packers.'

Page 12.—'While the route is in winter rendered altogether impassable by the great depth of snow.'

Page 23.—'The only drawback is the shortness of the working season, which they represent as limited, on the one hand, by the flooded state of the river in summer, and, on the other, by the severe cold in winter, which is found to have the effect of preventing the amalgamation of the fine particles of gold.'