

EDUCATION.

This is free to all children. In the first administration after confederation, an act was passed by the Legislature called the "School Act," by which every male above 18 years old had to pay an annual school tax of \$3 (12s.), and each district of settlers could form themselves, by complying with the provisions of the Act, into a School Board, and apply to Government for a sum of money towards building a School House and expenses. A master or mistress was appointed who had passed an examination, and held first, second, or third class certificates. These were paid by the Government, so the settler has all his children educated free. As a proof of the character of the education given, I may mention that in the annual examination some of the questions correctly answered by the children would puzzle many who had had a first class education in Great Britain. In fact, the character of the education given in the popular schools cannot be better, and first rate scholars are turned out. We have, in addition, a High School in Victoria, Vancouver's Island, to which students are admitted after examination.

TO CONCLUDE.

This is British Columbia, its products, and resources. I should occupy too much time if I went into full details; I have therefore given as short an account as possible. We are a Province of the Dominion of Canada, and are proud to belong to a country whose area of land is many thousand miles larger than the United States, and whose inhabitants are noted for their energy, kindness, warm heartedness and loyalty; and who are an honour to the British flag that flies over them as well as Great Britain. We saw only lately how Canadians rose as one man to present their heartfelt and respectful condolence to Her Majesty on the great loss she had sustained. It made those belonging to her, resident in other countries, proud of Canada, and her prosperous, loyal inhabitants. British Columbia has not been behind; the far west has spoken with the rest, and she considers herself specially favoured, from a Royal Princess having resided there, and won such golden opinions for the monarchy of Great Britain by her kindness and affability, assisted by that painstaking nobleman, the late Governor General of the Dominion. The Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise have together left a name behind that will not easily be forgotten, and made Great Britain respected and honoured on the Pacific Coast.

British Columbia is priceless, both to the Dominion and Great Britain, as she commands the great Pacific Ocean. The Railway, when across,—within two years it will be running—will give us the population and capital we require, and then British Columbia, by pouring forth her wealth, will fulfil her glorious destiny, and will finally refine, ennoble, and enrich the masses, and show by her prosperity and her beautiful climate that she is what I have endeavoured in a short way to describe her, *the Golden Province and Garden of the Dominion of Canada.*