

## CHAPTER XLIX.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(So called from Christopher Columbus.)

Size, with islands, the same as Quebec, or equal to a sq. of 450 in.

## GEOGRAPHICAL INTRODUCTION.

1. *Noted For.*—British Columbia is noted for its rich gold-mines, and for its comparatively mild climate.

2. *Extent.*—This new colony is bounded on the north by Russian America and the Finlay Branch of the Peace River, east by the main chain of the Rocky Mountains, south by the United States boundary-line ( $49^{\circ}$  north latitude), and west by the Gulf of Georgia, Pacific Ocean. Without Queen Charlotte and other adjacent islands, it is about 450 miles long, and 250 wide.

3. *Physical Features.*—The scenery of the northern part is picturesque, being diversified with mountain, lake, and river. The southern part includes the rich gold-valley of the Fraser River, and is well adapted to agriculture and pasturage. In addition to the principal Rocky Mountain range along the eastern boundary, two other parallel ranges naturally divide the country into three sections; viz., (1) the Pacific slope, (2) the Fraser River basin, and (3) the valley of the Upper Columbia. The parallel ranges in British Columbia are the Blue and the Cascade Mountains. The principal peaks are Mounts Brown and Hooker; the former 16,000 feet, and the latter 15,690, above the sea-level. Between these two peaks there is a pass called the Athabaska Portage, the summit of which is elevated 7,300 feet above the sea. To the south is the Kootainie Pass, 6,000 feet above the sea-level.

4. *Climate.*—Between the Cascade range and the Pacific coast the climate is equable; but towards the Eastern Rocky Mountains it is very variable. Winter lasts from November till March; but snow seldom remains long on the ground. The prevailing winds are from the north in summer, and from the south and the west in winter. The soil is fertile.

5. *Commerce and Finances.*—The annual value of gold and other products exported from British Columbia and Vancouver Island is about \$10,000,000; imports of British Columbia are about \$5,500,000; of Vancouver Island, \$4,500,000.

QUESTIONS.—Give the size, extent, and position of Vancouver Island. Describe its physical features. What is said of its climate and products? Mention the principal subjects of ch. XLIX. For what is B. Columbia noted?