

## VANCOUVER ISLAND AND THE MAINLAND OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IN the *Times* newspaper there was published in January, 1877, a letter signed "Old Settler," dated from New Westminster, British Columbia, 4th December, 1876, containing intemperate and ungenerous remarks on his island neighbours of Victoria, the British Columbia capital. To controvert some of his other assertions the following counter-statements are respectfully submitted, that the subject of the proposed terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway may be considered by the British public from another point of view.

As might be expected, mainlanders inhabiting the southern and in extent the third part of continental British Columbia are not in accord with Vancouver Islanders on the Railway Terminus question, although perfectly aware that it will be determined on its merits by the statesmen of the Dominion and mother country, when possessed of the fullest attainable information. It is doubtless the duty of mainlander as well as of islander to furnish each his quota of information, and it is for the impartial to judge how far supposed self-interest may have unwittingly warped the statements presented by either.

I differ from "Old Settler" as to the extent of the harbour of Burrard Inlet, and as to his estimate of its value to the Dominion and the empire, as the site of the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

In his epistle to the *Times* he has the following:—"A good route has been found, passing through or close to the settled parts of the province, and terminating at the magnificent harbour of Burrard Inlet—a harbour capable of containing all