

"McDonald and Adams, two partners, who were engaged in mining on the Thompson and Fraser, in 1857-58 brought down some of the first gold from the bars where the first profitable workings were carried on. At the mouth of the Fraser McDonald killed Adams and secured his gold, which he carried to Olympia, and there displayed it."

GAVIN HAMILTON'S STORY.

The *Victoria Times*, on July 26, 1907, published Mr. Gavin Hamilton's account of the date when gold was found, as under:—

"Gavin Hamilton, of Lac la Hache, Cariboo, a veteran of the Hudson's Bay Company and one of the 'lords of the North,' states that gold was first discovered in 1856 on the Thompson River—not in 1857, as erroneously held by many at the present day.

"Gavin Hamilton was the chief factor in the northern British Columbia district in the stirring days of the Hudson's Bay Company's power in North America. He was a trusted friend of the great Governor, Sir George Simpson. Leaving Gravesend on August 14, 1852, he came by the Hudson's Bay ship 'Norman Morrison,' under the command of Captain Wishart. The ship arrived at Vancouver Island on January 7, 1853.

"Mr. Hamilton is absolutely certain that gold was discovered in the Thompson River during the season of 1856, because Mr. McLean, at Kamloops, had two pint pickle-bottles half full of gold taken from the river that year."

GOVERNOR DOUGLAS REPORTED FAVOURABLY.

In December, 1857, and again in January, 1858, Governor Douglas advised the Colonial Office, in England, of the discovery of gold within the Couteau embraced by the Fraser and Thompson districts. He wrote: "From the successful result of experiments made in washing the gold from the sands of the tributary streams of Fraser River, there is reason to suppose that the gold region is extensive, and I entertain sanguine hopes that future researches will develop stores of wealth perhaps equal to the goldfields of California—the geological formations observed in the Sierra Nevada of California being similar in character to the structure of the corresponding range of mountains in this latitude." In April Douglas advised that "the native population, who had discovered the productive mines, and washed out almost all the gold, about 800 oz., thus far exported from the country, were extremely jealous of the whites digging for gold."

GOLD ABOUNDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

"And here," says Bancroft, "begins the infection which spread with such swift virulence in every direction. It is noised abroad that gold abounds in British Columbia. Then men everywhere throughout the world begin to study their maps, to see where is situated the favoured isle that guards the auriferous Mainland. California is to be outdone, as the rivers of British Columbia are larger than those of California. The glories of Australia shall pale before this new golden Aurora Borealis.

"The first load of 450 adventurers left San Francisco on April 20, 1858. Between April 20 and June 9, 2,500 miners, mostly from the interior of California, had taken passage by steamer from San Francisco; and it was estimated that 5,000 more at the same time collected in Puget Sound, on their way to the Fraser."

Later, Bancroft continues: The 20,000 who went to Fraser River from California in 1858 were warned that the bars where gold was reported would remain inaccessible on account of the high water until after midsummer, and that to wait for the opportunity to mine in that wilderness would be costly, and might be death. Before the river fell, thousands had left the country under the conviction that the water would never fall sufficiently, or that they had seen enough. Yet the diggings were over-