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FRAZER RIVER GOLD MINES.

It is now established that a district of British Oregon, holding a relation to Puget's Sound similar to that of the Sacramento valley to the Bay of San Francisco, contains rich and extensive gold placers.

The upper waters of Frazer river, including its principal tributary, Thompson river, are eagerly sought by adventurers from California and Australia have been. Geologists have anticipated such a discovery, and Governor Stevens, in his last message to the Legislative assembly of Washington Territory, claims that a district south of the international boundary is equally auriferous.

The Frazer river mines have already been mentioned in the British Parliament as not less valuable and important than the gold fields of Australia.

Those districts of British America west of the lakes, which by soil and climate are suitable for settlement, may be thus enumerated:

Vancouver's Island	16,000	sq. miles.
Frazer and Thompson rivers	60,000	" "
Sources of Upper Columbia	20,000	" "
Athabaska District	50,000	" "
Saskatchewan, Red River, Assineboin, &c.	360,000	" "
	506,200	" "

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

This island is fertile, well timbered, finely diversified by intersecting mountain ranges and small prairies, with extensive coal fields, compared by one witness to the West Riding of Yorkshire coal, and fortunate in its harbors, Esquimault Harbor, on which Victoria is situated, is equal to San Francisco. The salmon and other fisheries are excellent; but this advantage is shared by every stream and inlet of the adjacent coast.—The climate is frequently compared with England, except that it is even warmer.—The winter is stormy, with heavy rains in November and December; frosts occur in the lowlands in January, but seldom interrupt agriculture; vegetation starts in February, rapidly progressing in March, and fostered by alternate warm showers and sunshine in April and May—while intense heat and drought are often experienced during June, July and August. As already remarked, the island has an area of 16,200 square miles, and is as large as Vermont and New Hampshire.

FRAZER & THOMPSON RIVERS.

Northward of Vancouver's Island, the coast range of mountains tends so near the Pacific as to obstruct intercourse with the interior, but 'inside,' in the language of a witness, 'it is a fine open country.' This is the valley of Frazer river. Ascending this river, near Fort Langley, 'a large tract of land' is represented as 'adapted to colonists;' while of Thompson river, the same witness says that it is one of the most beautiful countries in the world'—'climate capable of producing all the crops of England, and much milder than Canada.' The sources of Frazer river, in latitude fifty-five degrees, are separated from those of Peace river, (which flows through the Rocky Mountains eastwardly, into the Athabasca,) by the distance of only 317 yards.

The Conception and History of an International Telegraph.

The origin of this enterprise must be dated several years anterior to "the year 1856, when Cyrus W. Field visited England;" and though to the generous liberality and unconquerable perseverance of Mr. Field, a native of our own State, the now united nations are more indebted for the completion of the work than to any other man, yet the grand conception originated with F. N. Gisborne in 1850 or '51, through whose exertions the company was formed and the enterprise commenced which has been so successfully completed.

As a brief sketch of the conception and early history of the enterprise will be read with interest at this time, I will give the facts in as few words as possible.

In 1851-2, we find young Gisborne, then only recently from England, his native place, engaged in a telegraph office in Montreal.—After availing himself of all the scientific results then involved in regard to telegraphic communication, he conceived the feasibility of a transatlantic line. He proceeded to Halifax full of enthusiasm. Preliminary to the work, he must have a line from Halifax through New Brunswick to the United States. He met with ridicule, but succeeded in getting Howe and Young, leading government officials, together at a dinner at the house of the latter. He sat opposite to Howe, who was then Provincial Secretary. There he urged the importance and feasibility of the enterprise with so much clearness as to induce them to make a line across the Province a government measure. It was built, and became profitable investment.

Gisborne's next move—still with the same great object in view, was to throw a submarine line across the gulf from the main land to Prince Edward Island, by way of experiment. In this, too, he succeeded, and the line is still in good working order, notwithstanding the immense quantities of floating ice with which that coast is visited during the whole of the winter season.

The next step was to reach Newfoundland from Cape Breton. To accomplish this, he came to New York, where he succeeded in forming a company to carry out the enterprise. He returned to Nova Scotia, and in his little steamer, the F. N. Gisborne, he proceeded to Newfoundland, where, with six picked Indians, he started on a survey across the island, some 300 miles, through dense forests. His Indians failed under the labor and fatigue of the journey, and one after another gave out and had to be provided for, until he finally got through alone, with his hatchet in his hand and pack of stale provision on his back. The route was considered favorable, and a gang of laborers were engaged to clear a way for the wires across the island.

For a while the work prospered, promising the early completion of a submarine line from Newfoundland to Cape Breton, where it could connect with the wires to the United States, and form an united communication from the States to the eastern extremity of Newfoundland, where the steamers from Europe would be visited by news boats, as at present, (alas! their occupation is gone!) and the news forwarded from the island to our cities, until the line across the Atlantic might be completed.

But a cloud of adversity burst over Gisborne's head, which paralyzed his efforts for a time. The New York Company, upon whom he relied for his pecuniary aid, failed, and his drafts were returned dishonored.—The work was suspended, and a posse of unpaid Irish laborers surrounded the projector and superintendent of the enterprise, threatening even his life if their bills were not settled. He gave up all his own property, but this did not satisfy the clamor of his hungry creditors, who had him arrested and imprisoned. To add to his grief, his young and lovely wife died, and left him with blighted prospects, both in his pecuniary and his social prosperity.

But those who minds are capable of grasping such an enterprise as that in which he had been engaged are not easily crushed. He sent to the head member of the Judiciary, and asks the favor of an interview at his cell. To him he stated, that as he had surrendered all his property, he could do no more *there*; but if released, and protected from molestation, he would organize a new company, and pay all claims.

He was at his word. Measures were adopted to release him at once, and the Colonial Parliament, then in session (Spring 1854), passed an act granting an appropriation as a loan, from the Provincial Treasury, to pay in part the claims of those laborers whose families were suffering. Gisborne came to New York. The Company was found to be insolvent. His next effort was to get up a new one. Among strangers, the reader may well imagine the difficulties he must necessarily encounter in this step of his progress. Where will he find the man who will even stop to listen to his story, much less risk a fortune in such an unparallelled project? He did find the man, and that man was Cyrus W. Field, with whom he succeeded in enlisting the co-operation of Peter Cooper, the millionaire, and four or five others whose wealth and energies were thrown into the enterprise. The result was the formation of a new company. Gisborne returned in May, 1854, to Newfoundland, as the superintendent of the enterprise, backed by a responsible company who assumed all the obligation of the insolvent concern, and paid off all claims.

Operations were pushed forward from this date with energy. The line between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland was successfully laid, and has proved entirely satisfactory, notwithstanding that both ends of the cable rest on shores visited by icebergs, but from which no injury has been sustained.

At the completion of this part of the line, a general superintendent of the Telegraph was required. Gisborne had the first offer of the office; but he over-shot the mark in naming as a salary $10,000, or something in that vicinity, and the office was given to young McKay, that very efficient superintendent of the Nova Scotia line. Here, unfortunately I think both for himself and the stockholders, Gisborne's connection with the company ceased.

Sensible of his scientific attainments and unconquerable perseverance, the merchants of Newfoundland invited Mr. Gisborne to a public dinner, and he was soon after elected President of the Mining Association of that Island.

JOHN STILES.

18, State-street, Boston, Aug. 6, 1858.

POETRY.

Sir Robert's Sailor Son.

BY GERALD MASSEY.

Our England hath no need to raise
The Ghosts of Glories gone;
Such heroes dying in our days
Still toss the live torch on.
Brave blood as bright as crimson gleams,
Still burns as goodly zeal;
The old heroic radiance beams
In men like William Peel.

Oh, he was just a warrior for
A weary working day!
So kind in peace, so stern in war,
He walks our English way.
With beautiful bravery clothed on,
And such high moral grace;
A light of rare soul-armor shone
Out of his noble face.

How, like a battle brand red hot,
His spirit grew, and glowed,
When in his swift war chariot
The avenger rose, and rode!
His sailors loved him so on deck,
So cheery was his call,
They leapt on land, and in his wake
Followed him guns and all.

Sleep, sailor darling, leal and brave,
With our dead soldiers sleep!
That so the land you lived to save,
You shall have died to keep.
You might have wished the dear sea-blue
To have folded round your breast;
But God hath other work for you,
And other place of rest.

We tried to reach you with our wreath
When living, but, laid low,
You grow so grand! and after death
The dearness deepens so!
To have gone so soon, so loved to have died,
So young to wear that crown,
We think, but with such thrills of pride
As shakes the last tears down.

God rest you, gallant William Peel,
With those whom England leaves
Scattered,—as still she plies her steel,—
But God gleans up in sheaves.
We'll tell the tale, on land, on board,
Till boys shall feel as men,
And forests of hands clutch at this sword
Death gives us back again.

Where is Fraser's River.

The recent discoveries of gold on Fraser's River will lead many to examine their maps in vain for the purpose of finding the precise locality of this now important stream.

Frazer's River empties into the Gulf of Georgia, a branch of Puget's Sound, a few miles north of the 49th parallel, which is the boundary between our territory and the British possessions. Its head-waters interlock with those of the Columbia and the Athabasca. For the first half of its course it runs in a southerly direction, when it turns westward. At the junction of the two rivers, and in the immediate vicinity, lie the diggings which are causing so much excitement on the Pacific Coast. They have been worked more or less since last summer, but their real importance was not ascertained until lately.

Fort Langley, the lowest post of the Hudson's Bay Company on Frazer's River, is situated on the left bank, about twenty-five miles from its mouth. Thus far the stream is navigable for vessels of considerable burden. The next post is Fort Hope, at the mouth of Que-que-alla River, sixty-nine miles above Fort Langley. To the "Falls" is 12 miles further, and thence to Thompson's River Forks is 55 miles. Thus the whole distance from the mouth of Frazer's River to the gold diggings at Thompson's River is 160 miles, or thereabouts.

Above Fort Langley the river is practicable for bateaux of three tons burden—a slow and tedious navigation—but after passing the "Fall" canoes only can be used. But the journey must really be made on foot from the Falls, and is exceedingly laborious and rugged. There are no horses or mules to be procured in all that region.

It is by the route above indicated that most of the gold-seekers will find their way to the new placers. There is, however, another route, via the Columbia River and the Dallas; but the distance is four or five hundred miles.

The latitude of the Thompson's River Forks is about fifty degrees, thirty minutes, or nearly 300 miles further north, than Quebec. But it must be remembered that the climate on the Pacific coast is mild in comparison with that of similar latitudes east of the Rocky Mountains.

It will be evident, even from this imperfect description, that the Frazer River mines are not easy of access. The country is wild, mountainous and nearly inaccessible. But men trained in California are not easily daunted. They can, doubtless, force their way wherever gold invites them to go.—[N. York Daily Times.

Snake Charming.

As we strolled through the market-place, we met a party of Eisowy, or snake-charmers; they consisted of four Soosy's, or natives of the province of Soos; three were musicians, their instruments being long rude canes, resembling in form a flute, but open at both ends, into one of which the performer blew, producing melancholy, but pleasing notes.

We invited the Eisowy to exhibit their snakes; to this they readily assented. They commenced by raising up their hands as if they were holding a book, muttering in unison a prayer addressed to the Deity, and calling upon Seedna Eiser, who in Morocco is held as patron saint of snake charmers. Having concluded this invocation the music struck up, and the snake charmer danced in rapid whirls, which no Strauss could have kept time to, around the basket containing the reptiles. This basket was made of cane work covered with goat skin. Stopping suddenly, the snake charmer thrust his bare arm into the basket, and pulled out a large black cobra capella, or hooded snake. This he handled as if it had been his turban, and proceeded to twine it round his head, dancing as before, whilst the reptile seemed to obey his wishes by preserving its position on his head. The cobra was then placed on the ground, and, standing erect on its tail, moved its head to and fro, apparently keeping time to the music. Now whirling round in circles more rapidly than before, the Eisowy again put his hand into the basket, and pulled out successfully and placed on the ground two very poisonous species of serpents natives of the desert of Soos, called leffa. They were of a mottled color, with black spots; were thick in the body, and not above two feet and a half or three feet long. The name is given, I imagine, by the Mogrebbin Arabs to this kind of serpent, from their resemblances when in the act of darting at their prey, to the Arabic letter fa, le being merely the article transposed. These reptiles proved more active and less docile than the cobra; for half coiled, and holding their heads in a slanting position ready for an attack, they watched with sparkling eyes the movements of the charmer, darting at him with open jaws every now and then, as he ventured within their reach, and throwing forward their body with amazing velocity, whilst their tail appeared to remain on the same spot, and then recoiling back again. The Eisowy warded of with his long hair the attacks which they made upon his bare legs, and the leffas seemed to expend their venom upon the garment.

Now, calling on Seedna Eiser he siezed hold of one of the two serpents by the nape of the neck, and danced round with it, then opening its jaws with a small stick, he displayed their fangs from which there oozed a white and oily substance. He then put the leffa to his arm, which it immediately sized with its teeth, whilst the man making contortions, as if in pain, whirled rapidly around, calling on his patron saint. The reptile continued its bite until the Eisowy took it off and showed us the blood which it had drawn."

Having laid the leffa down, he then put the bitten part of his arm into his mouth and pressing it with his teeth, danced for several minutes, whilst the music played more rapidy than ever, till, apparently being quite exhausted he again halted.

Conceving that the whole was a trick—that the leffa had been bereft of its poison, and that its bite consequently would be as harmless as that of a rat, I requested to be allowed to handle the serpent.

"Are you Eisowy?" said the man of Soos, "or have you steady faith in the power of our saint."

I replied in the negative.

"Then," said he, "if the snake bites you your hour is come! Bring me a fowl or any animal, and I will give you sure proof ere you attempt to touch a leffa."

A fowl was brought, and part of the feathers having been plucked, the serpent was again taken up by the charmer, and allowed to bite the fowl for an instant—The bird was put on the ground, and after running around as if in a fit for about a minute, tottered and fell dead. Its flesh became shortly afterwards, of a bluish hue. It is needless to say, that after this I declined handling the leffa.

The only way that I can account for the Eisowy escaping unharmed from the bite of the snake is, that either he prevents the leffa, when in the act of seizing his arm from using its fangs, and that the blood seen is drawn by the teeth only of the reptile which are distinct from its fangs; or else that the Eisowy possesses an antidote to the poison, and that he puts it into his mouth and applies it to the bitten part during the dance.

SMALL MONEY.—Among the Romans in Plutarch's time the smallest piece of brass coin in use, was the quadrans, the fourth part of demarius which was rather more than seven-pence English. A much smaller piece of money was current among the Jews called mite. This term seems to have been taken from the insect called by that name, this appearing to out ancestors to be the smallest of living creatures, the name was applied to the smallest of all coins. Anciently the penny used to be marked with a deeply indented cross dividing the piece into four equal parts, which when broken into two, made of course the half-penny, and when broken into four, each part the fourthing, of the original piece. Hence the name of our smallest coin, farthing, which at first was fourthing.

THE NEW CANADIAN MINISTRY.—The following list of the members of the Canadian Ministry is published in the Boston papers of Monday, and is no doubt correct:—

TORONTO, Aug. 6. The new Canadian Government was announced at Toronto this morning as follows: Premier, Mr. Cartier; Attorney General for the East, Mr. McDonald; Attorney General for the West, Mr. Galt; Inspector General, Mr. Alleyn; Provincial Secretary, Mr. Belleau; Speaker of the Legislative Council, Mr. Sicotte; Commissioner of the Public Works, Mr. Ross; Solicitor General for the East, Mr. Ross; President of the Council, Mr. Van Koughnet; Commissioner of the Crown Lands, Mr. Smith; Postmaster General, Mr. Simpson; Receiver General, Mr. Attlebone. With the exception of Messrs. Galt, Sicotte, Wood and Belleau, all the foregoing were members of the late McDonald administration.

The Puget Sound Democrat, of a recent date, states that in consequence of the stringent negro law in California, large numbers of free negroes are arriving at that place by every steamer from that State, with a view of a permanent settlement. A large number are also planting themselves upon Vancouver's Island, where they meet with a favorable reception from the authorities. Among them is the negro Archy, the famous "Dred Scott." The Democrat says, that so far as we have been able to form an opinion of this class of our community, we must say that they are a quiet, orderly, and unpretending people, none of whom have the appearance of being likely ever to give the territory much trouble in governing them, while our laws shall permit their residence here.

FATAL ACCIDENTS.—On Friday evening a man named Mitchel lost his life at the New Brunswick Oil Works. It was his duty to clean out the retorts, &c., after the process of distillation had ceased, and it is supposed that in haste to get away he went in before the gas had escaped, and without taking the precautions prescribed; and that he was suffocated.

The body of Mary White, a woman known to be addicted to drink for some years past, was found near Reed's Point on Saturday. It is not known how she fell in.—[Freeman.

CABLE QUESTION.—The Atlantic Cable when laid in the bed of the ocean, would be subject to a pressure of a column of water twelve thousand feet high, equal to the weight of four hundred atmospheres. Would not that be sufficient to press the water through the gutta percha with which it is surrounded, and so destroy its isolation, the water being itself a good conductor.—[Boston Atlas.

"I say, Jim," said a plowboy, the other day, to his companion, "I know of a new-fashioned Mackintosh to keep out the wet." "What is that?" "Why, if you eat a red herring in the morning for breakfast, you'll be dry all the day."

When Dr. H. and Sergeant A. were walking arm-in-arm, a wag observed to a friend, "Those two are equal to one highwayman." "Why so?" was the response. "Because," rejoined the wag, "it's a lawyer and a doctor—your money or your life."

That was a very learned and thoughtful mayor of Shrewsbury, to whom Lord Brougham held remarked at dinner, "Your town appears very old." To which his honor the mayor, replied, "It was always so, please your Lordship."

"I never shot a bird in my life," said one to his friend, who replied, "I never shot anything in the shape of a bird, but a squirrel," which I killed with a stone when it fell into the river and was drowned."

al issues in Poor Condition
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