

— No. 11. —

Copy of a LETTER from *H. Merivale*, Esq. to Captain *Hamilton*.

No. 11.

H. Merivale, Esq.  
to Captain Hamilton.  
13 May 1852.

Sir,

Downing-street, 13 May 1852.

In requesting you to lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the accompanying copies of despatches from the Governor of Vancouver's Island, and of a letter from that officer to Rear-Admiral Moresby, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington to request you to recall their Lordships' attention to my letter of the 24th of March, on the subject of stationing a ship of war off Queen Charlotte's Island. It appears to Sir John Pakington, from the enclosed papers, that the discovery of gold in that island, and the reported resort thither of several ships conveying adventurers, whose presence is likely to occasion disorder, render it imperative on Her Majesty's Government to take immediate steps for the security of British interests, and the upholding of national rights. I am therefore to request you to move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to instruct the Rear-Admiral on the station to despatch such a force to Queen Charlotte's Island as their Lordships may consider adequate for the service, and apprise the Rear-Admiral that it is of importance that this instruction should be obeyed as promptly as possible. Sir J. Pakington is of opinion that a steam-vessel should be included in the naval force to be sent to Queen Charlotte's Island, as that description of ship will afford facilities for more prompt and vigorous action, if such should be requisite, than a sailing vessel; and I am also to inform you, that it is Sir John's intention to provide the officer in command with a commission of the peace, so as to enable him to insist on obedience to the law on the part of British subjects.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *H. Merivale*.

— No. 12. —

Copy of a LETTER from Captain *Hamilton* to *Herman Merivale*, Esq.

No. 12.

Capt. Hamilton to  
H. Merivale, Esq.  
25 May 1852.

Sir,

Admiralty, 25 May 1852.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Secretary Sir John Pakington, copies of a letter from the British Consular agent at San Francisco to Rear-Admiral Moresby, relative to the discovery of gold in Queen Charlotte's Island, and of the order given for Her Majesty's ship "Thetis" to proceed to assert the sovereignty of Her Majesty over that island, &c., and to visit the settlement of Fort Rupert, in Vancouver's Island

I am, &amp;c.

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton*.

Enclosure in No. 12.

British Consulate, San Francisco,  
1 March 1852.

Encl. in No. 12.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to communicate intelligence respecting the discovery of large quantities of gold, and of gold bearing quartz, at Queen Charlotte's Island. From a letter received from Mr. Staines, chaplain to the Hudson's Bay Company in Vancouver's Island, and the statements of two English sailors who have just returned, I have been enabled to gather the following information:

The "Una" schooner, belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, was, I believe, one of, if not the first vessel to proceed there, and found good anchorage close to shore, in a small bay on the south coast of the island: a trade was carried on for some days with the Indians, when the schooner returned to Fort Victoria, Vancouver's Island, but had to leave after three days, in consequence of the Indians preventing the crew from removing the gold, which was found chiefly in quartz, close to shore. Three blasts were made, yielding about 300 l., with which, and the gold received in exchange for blankets, &c., they again left, and were wrecked at Cape Flattery, on the Oregon coast. A schooner, the "Damariscone," has lately returned. In making the voyage from San Francisco to