

railway, which is a necessity not alone to them, but to the Dominion at large, and, may I add, to the imperial Government also?—Your obedient servant,

OLD SETTLER.

New Westminster, British Columbia, Dec. 4.

DESCRIPTION OF ESQUIMALT HARBOUR.

By Correspondent of the "Times," 1858.

I left San Francisco on Thursday, the 24th June, at half-past four p.m., and arrived in Esquimalt Harbour, near Victoria, on the following Tuesday at six in the morning—distance 800 miles.

Having for several years entertained a conviction of the vast importance to England of the possession of Vancouver Island, both politically and commercially, and of the absence of any other point on the coast which can ever rival it north of San Francisco, I watched with much interest the different bays and anchorages as we passed them. There is not a safe harbour, not a spot adapted for a commercial port, between San Francisco and the island. Humboldt Bay is capacious, and vessels can lie with tolerable safety when once in; but it is inaccessible in heavy weather, and is difficult of exit.

There are several harbours along the coast which are good enough in summer, during the prevalence of north-west winds; but in winter the south-east winds blow up the coast, and make them all unsafe and difficult of access. The captain's remark was, "There is either a heavy swell or the access is difficult." There are no hidden dangers on the coast.