

Island are at present highly favoured in the want of a harbour, and the consequent impossibility of any vessel remaining long on its coast.

If this trade were located on the North-west coast, as it might be at little cost, affording as it does timber for shipbuilding, abundant and most excellent harbours to choose, and plentiful supplies, with a healthy climate and beautiful country for the residence of the families of the crews engaged in it, who then need never be more than three or four months absent from home, these great evils might be altogether avoided; but whether the fishery be established on the coast or not, it would afford to such a community as I have been describing, an admirable opportunity for developing the industrial and commercial capabilities of the natives who, like those of the Sandwich Islands, are already very skilful in it.

There is moreover a mean of usefulness, which such a community so placed and constituted would have, which would be great as regards the interests of science in general, and would go far to repay the cost of its establishment—I refer to scientific observations and collections. It must be remembered that our knowledge of this portion of the world is extremely limited; as yet there is not one observatory on the Western coast of North America, and probably scarce one position accurately ascertained; our botanical, zoological, meteorological, and particularly our geographical, ethnological and philological information is very imperfect.

The instruments necessary for such observations, might, I am persuaded, be procured without taking from the funds of the College. Since the great Exhibition of 1851, there was not, as I well believe, before, a larger and liberal spirit, far beyond that of the mere tradesman, has been apparent in the dealings of our manufacturers and mechanicians; and, independent of the great societies, almost every branch of constructive art in connexion with