

Cracked up.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

By J. S. KNEVETT.

WE cannot introduce the reader to the subject of this "Pioneer" paper better than by quoting the opinion of the most distinguished, impartial, and highly cultured critic that has ever visited the province—Lord Dufferin, the present Governor-General of Canada. After traversing British Columbia from its southernmost point to Alaska, he said, in his speech at Victoria on the 20th September, 1876, "I may frankly tell you that I think British Columbia *a glorious province*, which Canada should be proud to possess, and whose association with the Dominion she ought to regard as the crowning triumph of confederation. Such a spectacle as its coast line presents is not to be paralleled by any country in the world. Day after day, for a whole week, in a vessel of nearly 3,000 tons, we threaded an interminable labyrinth of watery reaches, that wound endlessly in and out of a network of islands, promontories, and peninsulas, for thousands of miles, unruffled by the slightest swell from the adjoining ocean, and presenting at every turn an ever-shifting combination of rock, verdure, forest, glacier, and snowcapped mountains of unrivalled grandeur and beauty.

"One is lost in admiration at the facilities for inter-communication which are thus provided for the future inhabitants of this wonderful region."

After describing the varied incidents of his tour Lord Dufferin says, "We proceeded up the valley of the Fraser, where the river has cloven its way through the granite ridges and bulwarks of the Cascade Range, and along a road of such admirable construction that does the greatest credit to the able administrator who directed its execution. Passing thence into the open valleys and rounded eminences beyond, we had an opportunity of appreciating the pastoral resources and agricultural capabilities of what is known as the bunch grass country," which, further on, he describes as an "almost interminable prospect of grazing lands and valleys susceptible of cultivation."

POSITION AND EXTENT OF THE PROVINCE.—British Columbia is bounded on the south by the 49th parallel (dividing it from the United States), on the north by Alaska, on the east by the Rocky Mountains, which separate it from the great North-West Territory of Canada, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.