

ALTHOUGH details of the discovery and early history of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island are interesting, they are unnecessary on the present occasion. I shall therefore proceed at once to give accurate information as to the nature of these countries, the character of their climate, and the extent of their resources and capabilities ; and I shall also advert to some of the drawbacks of British Columbia as a colony for settlement.

BRITISH COLUMBIA lies on the western side of North America, between the 49th and 55th parallels of north latitude. The Russian territory forms its northern boundary, the Rocky Mountains close it in on the east, the territory of the United States forms its southern limit, whilst the North Pacific on the west washes 450 miles of its coast. Its area, including Queen Charlotte's Island, is computed to be 225,250 square miles, or nearly three times that of Great Britain. It was previously known as New Caledonia, but has formed a colony under its present name since August 1858.

The *general appearance* of the country is very picturesque, but gloomy in its grandeur, awful in its solitude. No bubbling brooks, no soothing shades, no softly swelling hills, as in pleasant England : but in their stead streams white with foam, rushing along between cliffs, down ravines, and over waterfalls, in deafening thunder ; tremendous precipices, yawning gulfs, and naked towering rocks splintered with the storms of countless years ; boundless forests, fearful in their gloom, and fearful in their howling beasts of prey. Yet, when the vast masses of foliage glitter in the sunlight ; and above the overhanging cliffs and mountains,