

it is simply impossible to do it justice in an illustration, and the attempt is not made. Only those who have lived in Victoria know how enjoyable it is simply to exist in such a climate and amid such surroundings. No one who visits it in the spring months thinks the language of Mr. Macfie extreme in his "Vancouver Island and British Columbia." In March the trees are covered "with tinted buds and the fields with verdure. Then become visible the star-eyed and delicately blue collinsia, the chaste erythronium, the scarlet-blossomed lilies, and the graceful trillium; the spring grass and young fern show promise of returning life; the unfolding oak leaf and budding wild fruits proclaim that winter is gone. The sensations produced by the aspect of nature in May are indescribably delightful. The freshness of the air, the warble of birds, the clearness of the sky, the profusion and fragrance of wild roses, the widespread variegated hues of buttercups and daisies, the islets and inlets, together with distant snow-peaks bursting upon the view as one ascends some contiguous eminence, combine to fill the mind with enchantment unequalled out of Paradise." Another writer, who always weighs his words well, Mr. Sandford Fleming, in his "England and Canada," says: "It is not possible to live in a more favourable climate. The winter is especially mild, the thermometer seldom falling below freezing point. The summer is temperate; the thermometer, Fahrenheit, seldom rises above  $72^{\circ}$ , the lowest range being  $23^{\circ} 30'$ . Southerly winds prevail for two-thirds of the year, and summer lasts from May to September. The atmosphere is sensibly affected by the current which flows from the southern latitudes of Japan and China. The Kuro-Siwo brings the warmer temperature of the southern seas in the same way as the Gulf Stream has heightened the salubrity of the British Islands."

It has been said that the weather of Vancouver Island is milder and steadier than that of the south of England; the summer longer and finer, and the winter shorter and less rigorous; and this is saying a great deal. The climate of this Island must be almost perfection. It is its oldest inhabitant who should be the most free from disease.

The harbour of Victoria has a narrow entrance, is small, not very deep, and is rather inconveniently shaped; but as Esquimalt is near enough to serve as an additional port, Victoria does not suffer. When the days come, foreshadowed in the address of the Chinese residents to Governor Kennedy, the neck of land that now separates the two harbours may be cut: "Us like this no charge place; see it will grow and grow higher to highest; can see a Canton will be in Victoria of this Pacific. The maritime enterprises will add up wonderfully and come quick. China has silks, tea, rice, and sugar. Here is lumber, coal, minerals, and fish—an exhaustless supply which no other land can surpass." Esquimalt harbour is a gem; not very large, but the anchorage is excellent, and it has all the other requisites of a first-class harbour; and in the Royal Roads outside, along the coast as far as Race Rocks, any number of ships can ride safely.