

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Governor Blanshard to Earl Grey.

No. 1.

(Copy.)

Panama,

December 26th, 1849.

MY LORD,

I hereby beg to inform you of my arrival at Panama, on my way to Vancouver Island, on the 28th of November. I have as yet heard nothing from Admiral Horvby, relative to my further passage, nor have I had any opportunity of communicating with him, by the Lima Mail Packet, which sails to-morrow. I intend to forward to the Admiral a copy of the despatch, dated the 29th August, relating thereto, with a copy of which I was furnished by the Admiralty, previous to leaving England.

No. 1.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD BLANSHARD,
Governor of Vancouver Island.

No. 2.

(Copy.)

Fort Victoria, Vancouver Island,
April 8th, 1850.

MY LORD,

I beg to inform you of my arrival at Victoria, the settlement of the Hudson's Bay Company in Vancouver Island, on the 10th March ultimo, in H. M. S. S. Driver. On the 11th I landed, and read my Commission in presence of Commander Johnson, of H. M. S. Driver, and the officers and servants of the Hudson's Bay Company. No lodging being ready for me, I have been compelled to remain on board the Driver, during her stay in the Colony, and took the opportunity of visiting Fort Rupert, a new settlement which has been formed at Beaver Harbour, for the purpose of working the Coals with which the north-eastern part of the Island is said to abound. About six months ago, the Hudson's Bay Company sent a party of Scotch miners to Beaver Harbour, but they have not yet been able to discover Coal in any quantity; at the depth of seventy feet the largest seam they had struck was only eight inches in depth, and the surface Coal, which former reports describe as being three feet in depth and of excellent quality, nowhere, I am assured by the miners, exceeds ten inches, of which one-half is slag. Should they persevere, there is no doubt that a supply of Coal may eventually be obtained, which will greatly increase the value of this Colony; but the miners are unprovided with proper implements, discontented with their employers, and can scarcely be induced to work.

No. 2.

An application was made to me by Captain Hill, Commandant of the U. S. Military Post, at Chelahom, to allow a force to proceed to Vancouver Island to apprehend two men, Military deserters from the United States Army, who had been taken from Chelahom by a Schooner belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, incurring thereby a heavy penalty under the local law of the State of Oregon. This I declined to allow, as I conceive that no reciprocal arrangement exists between Great Britain and the United States for the arrest of deserters for purely Military offences.