

failed to rescue all. Out of the whole number of Frazer River adventurers, from one to three hundred remained in British Columbia and in Victoria, and at places in Puget Sound 3,000 or 4,000 others. This crowd of working men represented the mining population of California. Composed of men from many lands, they were generally intelligent, under very rough exteriors, and, accustomed to self-government, they behaved on the whole exceedingly well. They submitted to the laws passed from time to time, although some of them, arising from the Hudson-Bay Company's charter, appeared oppressive and unjust.

The hardy miners, with their long beards, red shirts, revolved and bowie-knifed belts, and extensive boots, were to an European eye, or to the class they termed "the kid-gloved gentry," more picturesque than orderly in appearance. They had to undergo much chaffing in California, but covered their chagrin in good-humoured jokes; and as their loss would have been severely felt in the mountains of that country, they were cordially welcomed back. The country was but a hunting-ground, and not prepared for a sudden swarm of 25,000 omnivorous creatures. The prospector had either to pack his provisions on his back and get into the upper country, over a path only suitable for goats, or greatly risk both property and life on the dangerous rapids of the river. A common remark was, "that nature had endeavoured to make the country inaccessible, and had very nearly succeeded." If the roads which now give

easy access had then traversed it, instead of the 6,000 whites and Chinese in the colony during 1861, it is not unreasonable to suppose there would have been a population of 100,000.

Political feeling is tolerably strong in Victoria, considering its number of British subjects is but about 2,000, and a possibility of the interests of its residents, or their rights and privileges, suffering from neglect of the watchful community is very slight. There is the Government party, which the "Opposition Reform" party considers too "slow and sure;" the "Independent" party, whose only aim appears to be the public good; the "Anti-coloured" and the "Coloured" party, which latter is likely to be in a majority by its members becoming British subjects, and white ones not arriving. Besides these, there are one or two parties founded on personal feelings. In "New Westminster" and "Hope" the community seems to be divided into two parties, the one adopting the maxim of "Let well enough alone," and the other being desirous of a radical change. As the present form was understood to be merely *pro tem*, it is likely some change will be made as it becomes more settled.

That the general legislation has been wise and the wants of the colonies carefully studied, is sufficiently proved by the prosperity of both, and the good estimation in which they are held abroad, a country where one's life and property is safe, and where civilized people find themselves at home.