

torrents of water, and the soul of man is weary, so weary waiting for the sun? No, you have none of this, you have none of this, and God grant you may still be spared. Do you know what a country dying out by inches from drought means? Have you ever rode over fertile valleys, rich prairies, studded with splendid farms, valuable orchards, endless flocks of every kind, and marked the slow but inevitable work of famine and progress of death? Have you ever seen the beautiful firmament of Heaven paled in its hue by the constant glare of the terrible sun, and creation stripped of every living herb, panthers and bears subdued by hunger come down from their lairs to die with dying flocks of sheep and cattle, and fruits, and trees, and crops perish by the hour? Have you ever felt that living death, the dread silence pervading the busy haunts of man, when the earth and all things living are weary, so weary waiting for the rain? No, no, you have none of this, you have none of this, and God grant you may still be spared. No, sir, of all countries I was ever in this one to me seems least afflicted by those physical evils which constantly punish each clime and each people in turn. What would have been your condition to-day had you gone through a tithe of our California experience? I hear people on all sides constantly talking of California to the prejudice of British Columbia. Well, she is a bright, sunny, glorious country upon the whole; but if there is one country in the world more than another where men's souls have been tried and their energies tasked to make her what what she is, it is that very California. Had this Colony received the same advantage of foreign capital and emigration that she has had, it would have been, in my opinion, a far more preferable country in many respects.

Again, in a commercial sense, I cannot see grounds for such gloomy forebodings, because, in my opinion, the more San Francisco extends her influence, capital and successful trade, it must, to a certain extent, in the end benefit Victoria, simply because she has the only safe seaport besides that city on the sea coast. The opening of the Japan and China trade, and the purchase of Sitka, will also have an immediate good effect, for neither can be carried to a successful issue without the means of this Island. The Americans know this, and hence their desire to get this stumbling block to their greatness on the Pacific. In reference to Sitka, it brings British Columbia at once in the centre of the American possessions, and its trade must centre here in spite of national prejudices and political jealousies. The steamers plying to and from San Francisco must coal here, because it is cheaper, and commercial necessities and commercial benefits soon bring all things to a level. Some think Sitka will never amount to anything, and much fun has been made about its purchase. That is not my impression. In the hazards of the American people, and in the midst of American wants, it is sure to advance, and not being able to get this country, the purchase of Sitka was the next best