

APPENDIX "G."

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

From the Correspondence of the London Times.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,)

December 9, 1859. (

All recent accounts from British Columbia have been of a most satisfactory and encouraging character.

Its wealth, and the vast extent of its auriferous area, are now established by undeniable evidence: the satisfaction of the miners with their success, and the arrival here of large quantities of gold dust, the discoveries of new "placers," and the extension of old diggings in which gold is found deeper and further inland from the rivers than was at first expected, all go to establish these two important facts.

NEW GOLD DIGGINGS.

Rich diggings have been discovered in the Similkameen valley, a short distance north of the 49th parallel, within the territory of British Columbia. The valley of the Similkameen (pronounced "Saeemilkameen") which is watered by a river bearing the same name, is extensive, fertile, abounds in rich pasture, and is well adapted for settlement. The climate is genial and there are many extensive tracts in the Similkameen country especially favorable for stock raising, as in winter the snow never lies, however deep it may be in the mountainous country around. The river is a tributary of the Okanagan, which falls into the Columbia near 48° north latitude. This new mining country is accessible from Fort Hope on Frazer river, and from the neighboring American country. (Washington Territory) the inhabitants of which have availed themselves of the facility to mine there during last autumn with success, which produced the usual "excitement." Gold has also been discovered and worked to a considerable extent on Quesnell's river and Lake some 250 miles to the north of the last mentioned locality. In short, the whole of the interior portions of the country, from a point about 45 miles from (above) the mouth of Fra-

zer river up to the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains, including New Caledonia, are now ascertained to be auriferous; and, what is equally important, extensive tracts of good land adapted for agriculture have been at the same time discovered.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S ISLAND.

The problem whether the gold area extended as far north as the northern boundary of British Columbia to the Russian line has also been solved. Captain Torrens, late of Her Majesty's 55th Regiment—a gentleman who combines a life of adventure with a high spirit of enterprise—organized an expedition, including scientific men, some months back, to explore Queen Charlotte's Island and the north-west coast of British Columbia. They first made for Fort Simpson, the Hudson's Bay Company's northernmost establishment on the Pacific, situate in latitude 54 deg. 20 sec., near the Russian boundary.

From Fort Simpson they crossed to Queen Charlotte's Island (a dependency of the colony of British Columbia) and landed on Point Rose, an isthmus which forms the north-eastern extremity of the island. Captain Torrens has kindly furnished me with notes from his journal and from them I will extract a succinct account of his wanderings. From Point Rose the party coasted southward, "prospecting" as they went along. The "color," as the miner calls a successful trial for gold, was found almost everywhere on the coast in the concrete, and in the different strata of gravel in the cliffs; but the best "prospects" were derived from the black sand on the beach from Point Rose to Skidegate, a distance of some sixty odd miles on the south coast. Captain Torrens thinks the discovery of gold in black sand (iron pyrites) on the sea coast a remarkable fact. Gold in considerable quantities is found similarly situate on the north coast of California, at a place