

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE NORTHWEST.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA has greatly risen in importance within the last few years. The gold and silver mines of Rossland and Slocan, as well as the Atlin country, are rich and extensive. They, with the far-famed Klondike to the northward, have attracted attention and capital, but above all the Spanish-American war has given to it real prominence.

Japan and China are more familiar names to the Englishman and American than they were before the war; these countries appear nearer in the line of commerce and advancement. The whole Pacific coast of North America is absorbing attention from all parts of the world and Europe and America are hurrying westward while bright young Japan comes out from the East with open arms extending to them a hearty welcome.

It is pleasant at the outset to draw special attention to that growing empire. Japan has been able manfully to seize the modern lines of progress; has been able to realize that nations or individuals who cease to compete are lost; has been able to realize that there is no middle line. It must be advancement or retrogression. As witness their fine display at the World's Fair at Philadelphia in 1876, and then again at Paris in 1889, both of which I examined carefully and with deepest attention; but above everything else, the great variety of the Japanese display at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893 challenged the admiration of all. Japan is the only nation on that half of the globe prepared to cope with the nations on the other half. It is like a bright pillar in the Eastern seas, visible to all men and shrinking from none, but inviting all to share its progress and investigate its strong arm and warm heart for love or war. The *Orient*, an excellent Japanese magazine, is frank and earnest in its approval of the mission of Lord Beresford and of an Anglo-American-German-Japanese alliance, for the open door and the maintenance of stable government in China. Japan has well earned for itself an honored place in the highest family of nations, and wherever it is not so acknowledged it is only for want of true information in regard to the real merits of the empire.

British Columbia, with two thousand miles of coast line, for-