

Forks of Quesnel." Both branches of the Quesnel are highly auriferous. Mining began here in 1859, and led to the discovery of Cariboo, situated 50 miles further north. The returns for last summer were that nine out of ten of the claims paid over an ounce a day to the hand. The river banks enable the miners to work in winter. The diggings must be rich to have retained any miners so close to Cariboo, where fortunes were made in the course of a few weeks.

#### THE LARGEST GOLD FIELD IN THE WORLD.

There is one grand prominent feature of the country pre-eminent from its extent and character, which I must not omit, for without a knowledge of it no accurate conception can be formed of the area or resources of the great gold field of British Columbia. I allude to a chain of mountains which runs from our southern frontier (on 49° north latitude) in a north-westerly direction through the country, and, in fact, beyond the northern limit of the colony. It forms the water-shed of the great basin of the Fraser River, one side of which drains itself into the valley of the Fraser, and the other into that of the Columbia. The whole of this vast range is now known to be auriferous. It has been traced for 400 miles, and "fine and coarse gold is everywhere found on its western slopes from Rock Creek in the south to Cariboo in the north." It is the longest stretch of continuous inland gold bearing country yet discovered in the world.

#### NO LOW EARNINGS.

In reading the returns of the daily labours of the miners, as well in my former letters as in this one, you will be surprised to find no mention made of *small* earnings: None are *low*, while all are *high*—which, without explanation would induce a doubt as to the accuracy of my reports. The omission looks certainly as if the miners' "geese were all swans." The fact is, we never hear of the low earnings. They are never reported; and, on a broad view of the actual circumstances at present attaching to British Columbia mining, I may assert that there are no low earnings. Here is exactly how the matter stands:—Some of the Chinamen, while serving their novitiate, are satisfied with such poor diggings as yield only \$1 to \$2 a day, but they are soon forced by their task-masters, who