

Harbour, but had no time to examine it. I am sorry to inform you that we were obliged to leave off blasting, and quit the place for Fort Simpson, on account of the annoyance we experienced from the natives. They arrived in large numbers, say 30 canoes, and were much pleased to see us on our first arrival. When they saw us blasting and turning out the gold in such large quantities, they became excited and commenced depredations on us, stealing the tools, and taking at least one-half of the gold that was thrown out by the blast. They would lie concealed until the report was heard, and then make a rush for the gold; a regular scramble between them and our men would take place; they would take our men by the legs, and hold them away from the gold. Some blows were struck on these occasions. The Indians drew their knives on our men often. The men who were at work at the vein became completely tired and disgusted at their proceedings, and came to me on three different occasions and told me that they would not remain any longer to work the gold; that their time was lost to them, as the natives took one-half of the gold thrown out by the blast, and blood would be shed if they continued to work at the digging; that our force was not strong or large enough to work and fight also. They were aware they could not work on shore after hostility had commenced, therefore I made up my mind to leave the place, and proceed to this place.

"The natives were very jealous of us when they saw that we could obtain gold by blasting; they had no idea that so much could be found below the surface; they said that it was not good that we should take all the gold away; if we did so, that they would not have anything to trade with other vessels should any arrive. In fact, they told us to be off. The chiefs have no power over the lower orders, and of course cannot prevent them from plundering or committing any act of violence on strangers. I will refer you to Mr. Greggor for information regarding the vein, &c., at the diggings, as he seems to have a good idea of the rock, and how the work should be carried on; he has behaved well, and was very zealous at his work.

"The men said they should go again in the spring, if an expedition properly fitted should start for working the gold in Queen Charlotte's Island. In my opinion, should another expedition go to Queen Charlotte's Island, a force of at least 80 men would be required, with two officers to attend the land party; the ship also should have three officers besides the captain, which I can prove by experience during our late visit to the gold district. The ship's crew, as well as the land party, should go on shares of the gold that may be collected, as it would prevent any one from trading gold; we had considerable trouble during our stay at the island, to prevent the people from trading the ore. The natives brought a quantity of gold to me, which I traded, and now forward it together with that which we obtained by blasting ourselves.

"Very little, if any, gold will be obtained in Queen Charlotte's Island, except by blasting. It appears to me, that some of the gold I traded was obtained in some other place than that which we were at. They, however, said that they had discovered gold in no other place than in Mitchell's Harbour; this report I much doubt, as the lumps are solid, and different from any other that we found at the place we were at work on.

"We have discovered, and proved by this voyage, that gold is to be found in quantities at Mitchell's Harbour alone to pay an expedition to go there and work it. I had no opportunity of examining the country much, as we remained but 15 days, during which time I was occupied with the Indians, as no one on board except myself could speak to them. We had had some boisterous weather during the time also. I saw no place where we could build a fort anywhere near the diggings. The shores near the sea and harbours are bold, steep rocks down to the water's edge.

"Provisions will be found scarce at Mitchell's Harbour; no deer on the island, and fish appear to be very scarce, as they cannot catch them on the outside of the island, except during a calm, or a north-east wind. Potatoes can be had in large quantities from the Skiddigats tribe, who reside on the east side of the island, but can reach the diggings in two days travel in the summer season.

"Should a fort be built, or a ship remain at the diggings for a length of time, a large number of Indians would collect and reside near at hand, and give annoyance. Therefore, a large force of men would be required for protection,
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