

Nw. 1862

The Family Friend

HOMES OF THE ENGLISH OVER THE SEA.

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by the ascent of the gas, is compelled to pass through the small perforations below the gallery, partly through the cone, and against the outer part of the flame, and partly through the central tube against its interior; the supply of air obtained in this manner is amply sufficient to ensure perfect and brilliant combustion, without the employment of a chimney. Messrs. Martindale have also adapted the same general principle to the construction of flat wick lamps.

The mode in which the globes are secured in the gallery is very simple and effective. In Fig. 1 there may be observed, immediately over the button used in raising or depressing the wick,

the glass globe projecting over the gallery. These are capable of being turned round to the opposite side, where there are two fixed catches. When all are together the flanged globe can be readily placed in the gallery, but on returning the movable catches to the side opposite those that are fixed, the flange of the glass globe is securely held down on both sides, and its accidental removal prevented.

Believing, as we do, that hydrocarbon oils will be eventually the most important of all sources of artificial light, we hail with pleasure any improvement in the construction of lamps fitted for their combustion.

HOMES OF THE ENGLISH OVER THE SEA.

No. 1.—BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

(Continued from page 224.)

THE MAINLAND, OR BRITISH COLUMBIA.

APPROACHING the mainland, say from the Gulf of Georgia, which runs between it and the Island of Vancouver, British Columbia presents a sea-wall of jagged, rugged cliffs, against which a foaming sea dashes ineffectually. A monotonous series of rocks start up before the voyager's view, all densely covered with fir trees. The narrow seas between the island and British Columbia are beset with dangers to navigation, in the form of swift currents, sunken rocks, &c.; while away up the gulf to Johnstone Straits, and beyond these to Broughton Archipelago, no sailing vessel unprovided with a pilot could safely steer its way. A single glance at the map will enable any person to perceive that the power holding fortifications on Vancouver Island, and on the Broughton Archipelago, would be in possession of a Gibraltar and a Cronstadt together, and grasp the Pacific in its clutch by the throat.

It is with the interior of British Columbia, however, that we have at present to deal, with those auriferous tracts which promise to afford England as great an in-

ducement to establish itself on the Pacific as California has given to the United States of America. To-day we know scarcely anything more of this territory than that it lies on the shores of the Pacific; that on the land it is bounded by the Rocky Mountains and the line of American territory; and that in two of its rivers gold rushes with the current.

Sir E. B. Lytton, in his speech to the House of Commons, gave a summary of all that was positively known both of the country and of the gold fields that exist in it. "I will give the house," he said, "a sketch of the little that is known to us through official sources of the territory in which these new gold fields have been discovered. The territory lies between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific; it is bounded on the south by the American frontier line, 49 deg. latitude, and may be considered to extend to the source of Fraser River, in latitude 55 deg. It is, therefore, about 420 miles long in a straight line; its average breadth about 250 to 300 miles. Taken from corner to corner its greatest length would be, however, 805 miles, and its greatest breadth