

danger to the Fort at this time. The men and Indians got intoxicating liquor from her and this, together with the tales told by the crew of the riches in California, maddened the miners beyond measure with their imprisoned condition at Fort Rupert. The fort became anything but secure, with drunken Indians without and enraged miners within. The men made no secret of the fact that they would take the first opportunity which presented itself of leaving. The England, having nearly completed her cargo, one day it was found that all the miners had disappeared. Their whereabouts could not be discovered. They were not on board the England, and although the Captain and crew knew perfectly well where they were hidden they would not tell. The desertion of the men was, of course a great blow to the fort. By it the mining industry was brought to an end. Owing to this and other desertions, too, the gates of the fort were closed, and ingress and egress prevented. The Indians, of course, were only too well acquainted with the state of things within the fort, and as they were easily excited it became very questionable whether they would not make an attack on the fort or set it on fire. Mr. Blenkinsop and Dr. Helmcken had to keep watch and ward, and on more than one occasion Indians climbed to the top of the pickets and looked into the enclosure by way of bravado. The Indians, however, finally promised that if they found out where the deserters were they would let the officers at the fort know. At this time the England was ready to leave. One day the Indians brought word that three white men had been seen on an island not a great distance away. Knowing that these must be either miners or seamen, Mr. Blenkinsop despatched a canoe of Indians, with Old Whale, an Indian chief, in command. Whale was well acquainted and friendly with the miners. If he brought the men back safely he was to be rewarded. He returned empty, however, the men having left the island. A day or two after rumors became rife among the lodges that three men had been murdered by the Newittees, a tribe living thirty miles from Fort Rupert. The fort interpreter was sent to inquire into the truth or falsehood of the report and returned next day, having seen the deserting miners at Sucharto, near Newittee, from whom he learned that the murdered men were three sailors. The miners were waiting for the England to carry them away, and the sailors had been hiding in other places for a similar purpose. The latter had been supplied with food by