

down from them that have hitherto been explored. The beds of the Fraser and its two principal branches, making together a thousand miles, and the beds of more than sixty smaller tributaries flowing westwards from the mountains, all contain gold. There are vast placers, or plains, underlaid with gold. The 'dirt' lies in such abundance as is nowhere else to be found; but its quantity alone is not the chief point. Running water is necessary to separate the gold from the rubbish brought with it from the mountains, and, while water is often only obtained with much difficulty and cost in California, and as often not to be had at all in Australia, it always abounds in British Columbia. There is, too, a singular disposition of the surface which favours the application of this useful agent. The land lies in successive levels, separated by 'benches,' as they are called, or old sea beaches, as our geologists name them; so that it is always easy to direct the water of a level to flush and scour the channels cut on the 'bench,' or the dip, to a lower level. It is true that the canals required to bring this water to the gold are sometimes long; but here, again, comes a further difference, much in favour of British Columbia as compared with California. The law is strong, and public opinion is sound under British rule. The capital sent to San Francisco does not return. It is invested in works which multitudes are glad to use, but refuse to pay for when the day comes. It is not so under our flag. British Columbia, thus we are told, offers a good investment both for labour and for capital. Already, in the marvelously short time that has passed since the news that the Americans had managed to leave us a gold field north of their line, the country is full of costly and not less profitable operations on a colossal scale.

"It is no exaggeration, but a simple fact, according to our correspondent, that the gold digging of British Columbia is a lottery in which there are no blanks; and the prizes are indeed splendid. While Indians, with rudest hand labour, and Chinese are often found getting an ounce of gold a-day, and while the hired labourers at the work, without sharing its risk, get £2 a-day, besides their keep, we are told of five men in two months obtaining, in a spot which promised ill at first, more than £20,000. As the work, however, can only be carried on during a part of the year, perhaps the wealth of the country is more correctly represented by the wages of a labourer in permanent employment. It is probable that the class of persons whom benevolent people would wish to send out to the colony would