

Seattle, July 24, 1893

years old; yet in many ways they already resemble cities of thrice their age. Tacoma, consisting of a closely built central town and several offshoots out in the woods, embraces an area almost six miles square, and has broad streets on which millions of dollars have been expended for grading and plank-covering. It has been laid out with strict regard to the needs of future generations; the corporate limits are extensive and a proper eagerness to lay out lots and sell them is manifested by every person in the city. The readiness with which old settlers offer to make sacrifices to gratify the speculative stranger is really charming. Electric railways connect the centre and the suburbs, so that all parts of the area are reached with ease. Seattle was destroyed by fire a few years ago, and the new buildings are of a better type than the old, so that this city impresses one more favourably at the first glance than Tacoma. These cities are energetic rivals; each is the greater in the estimation of its citizens, who predict a less brilliant future for the other. A still more notable town is Anacortes, almost on the line between Washington and British Columbia, which has grown more rapidly than the removal of tree-stumps has advanced. It is an admirable specimen of the city *in posse*. The forest has been cut down, streets have been laid out and, to some extent, graded; houses have been built in clusters, separated by long intervals of stump-covered ground. Some of these buildings are imposing in size and architecture, and are strangely out of place amid a wilderness of stumps. But let no one think or speak slightly of Anacortes; within ten years it may be the great rival of Tacoma, Seattle, and Victoria.

Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, on Vancouver's Island, is an attractive city; the moist climate makes it, like Portland, Oregon, a city of roses. The grounds about the houses are fragrant and beautiful, for the shrub-like bushes are covered with a profusion of blossoms, astonishing to one accustomed only to eastern scenes. This city, like all others on the Pacific coast, has its Chinese quarter, where joss-houses and theatres are equally conspicuous, just as in white men's cities churches and theatres rival each other in magnificence. Nanaimo, about fifty miles north of Victoria, is a small town, dependent on the well-known coal mines there and at Departure Bay, three miles further north. The coal from these mines is shipped to all parts of the Pacific coast, being far better than any thus far discovered in the States of Washington, Oregon, or California. The beds are of no little interest to geologists, in that many years ago they yielded fossils, which showed that a flora of well-marked Tertiary forms accompanied a characteristic Upper Cretaceous fauna—a fact which proved of great importance during the discussion respecting the relations of the Laramie group, now accepted as Cretaceous, though long regarded as Tertiary.

The Gulf of Georgia intervenes between Vancouver's Island and the mainland. Northwards it is broken by islands, and the steamer route follows Discovery Passage, where the tourist first makes acquaintance with the causes which render the steamer's movements uncertain, and subsequently is not surprised at the captain's apparent dilatoriness. Seymour's Narrows, barely half a mile wide, form a part of the passage; the channel