

with clouds and coming tempests. Every disappointed new-comer began to find fault or to croak, and those who had had nothing to hope or to lose in California, the foremost. Men who had tried every country, their own, England, Canada, then New York and the Eastern States, afterwards New Zealand and Australia, and finally California, and had never been able to do anything anywhere, or succeed in any one of them, now began to run down the country, its climate, its government, and especially every thing English. Others would with more justice accuse the Company. Others again, and among them were some of the prominent ones, would sneer at the very idea of there being any gold. Germans would expatiate on "American enterprise," fondly attributing every disappointment to the absence of it, and forgetting that two thirds of the improvements in Victoria were owing to English or foreign capital; whilst here and there some rough looking Californian, who had done nothing himself, would talk contemptuously of English fogeyism, using with a taunting emphasis the words, "British subject." There are men who can find it in their minds to deny their country, and glory in what to others would be shame; there are others, and much more numerous, who in presence of such ignorant conceit, and through timidity, dare not give utterance to their feelings; but since I have it on my lips, I will say loudly that I feel prouder of being a free British subject on Vancouver Island, than subject to the rule of a rotten democracy in California. The native Americans seemed annoyed at these displays of bad taste, and were in general much more reserved and moderate in their language. The French too, who had made up their minds to leave, did it in sorrow, for they liked both the country and the liberty and security they enjoyed in it.

At last the gold dust did begin to come down, and a new era appeared to be opening; but nobody felt inclined to wait any longer. People had made up their minds to leave and nothing could stop them; traders sold out their goods at ruinous prices, and whole stocks were disposed of at auction, where they would scarcely fetch half price. Sailing vessels left every day loaded with "repentant Fraserites,"