

established; it is badly situated with regard to water and position, which latter has been chosen for its agricultural advantages only.

About three miles distant, and nearly connected by a small inlet, is the Squimal Harbour, which is very commodious, and accessible at all times, offering a much better position, and having also the advantage of a supply of water in the vicinity.

This is the best built of the Company's forts; it requires loopholing, and a platform or gallery, to enable men to fire over the pickets; a ditch might be cut around it, but the rock appears on the surface in many places.

There is plenty of timber of every description on Vancouver's Island, as also limestone, which could be transported to Nisqually, or other places in the territory where it may be hereafter deemed necessary to form permanent works, barracks, &c.

—No. 7.—

COPY of a LETTER from *H. G. Ward, Esq., M. P.*, Secretary to the Admiralty,
to Rear-Admiral Sir *George F. Seymour, K. C. H.*

Sir,

Admiralty, 5 February 1848.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you, for your information and guidance, the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr. Cunard, recommending that, on grants of land being made on Vancouver's Island, that the coal-mines should be reserved for the use of the Crown.

I have, &c.

Rear-Admiral Sir George F. Seymour,
K. C. H., &c. &c. &c.

(signed) *H. G. Ward.*

Enclosure in No. 7.

Sir,

1, Hyde Park Place West, 3 January 1848.

OBSERVING in the public papers that coal is to be had at Vancouver's Island, I hope I may not be considered as intruding by bringing the subject under the notice of the Lords of the Admiralty. Individuals in the Oregon territory will be alive to the advantages resulting from the possession of this valuable article, and will endeavour to obtain the best situations, or acquire any right the natives may have, or suppose they may have.

It may therefore be well, in granting lands on this island, to reserve the mines for the use of the Crown, and to take such measures as may prevent the natives or others from acquiring or ceding rights to these mines.

The subject will not long escape the vigilance of the Americans in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.

H. G. Ward, Esq., M. P.
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *S. Cunard.*