

the marine establishment of St. Blas and California." Quadra received the English with great courtesy, but was willing to give up only the spot of ground on which Mr. Meares' house had been situated. The rights of Spain to island and mainland he considered beyond dispute. Vancouver, with equal politeness and firmness, pointed out that San Francisco was the northernmost settlement occupied by the subjects of His Catholic Majesty in April, 1789, and, therefore, that according to the agreement of the Court of Spain exclusive rights could not be claimed beyond that port. The whole matter had to be referred back to England and Spain for instructions. Vancouver went on with his surveys; and when he returned to Nootka in 1794, learned to his great regret that Quadra was dead. The island he called after himself and the courteous Spaniard; but Quadra's share in the name was soon forgotten.

Not till 1843 was any further attempt at settlement on Vancouver Island made by white men. In that year the Hudson's Bay Company built a fort at Victoria, and subsequently the British Government constituted the Island as a crown colony. Discoveries of gold on the mainland, reported to the Home Government in 1856, attracted crowds of gold seekers in 1857 and 1858, and Victoria experienced the same kind of "boom" that cursed Winnipeg in 1882. Thousands of adventurers pressed on across the Gulf of Georgia to wash the bars of the Fraser or "Crazy" River, and up as far as the Thompson and Bonaparte, overcoming obstacles that would have stopped the most determined army ever organized. A few hundreds of the hardiest and most intrepid reached their destinations; a few scores secured bags of gold dust. The rest perished miserably, or drifted back to Victoria and to California, broken men, but laying the blame not on themselves, but on "British old fogysm" and "the absence of American enterprise." During this time of aggressive rowdyism the mainland was constituted into a colony. Unlike Vancouver Island, it had originally been entered from the east. Agents of the Northwest Company had crossed the main divide of the Rocky Mountains and given their names to its great rivers, but their labours had led to no political action. In 1866 the two crown colonies were united under the name of British Columbia, and in 1871 it became a province of the Dominion.

Victoria, the capital, is the most charming little city in America. It has not one-fourth of the life, activity, and wealth of Portland, the capital of the State of Oregon, nor the bustle and apparent vigour of Seattle; but in no city on the Pacific coast north of San Francisco can you get a dinner such as is served daily in the Driard House, and nowhere else are there such views of glorious mountain ranges as from its environs, such an atmosphere and climate, and such opportunities for boating and bathing, or for drives into the country along well-built roads, past cottages that look like toy-boxes, surrounded by roses and honey-suckle, and quaint little roadside inns that remind one of out-of-the-way nooks in remote counties in old England rather than of the fevered life, the glitter, and the discomfort of the farthest and newest west. Vic-