

depredations on their neighbours; they have had less intercourse with the whites, and are not to be trusted, but ought to be strictly guarded against. When I went there with the canoe, they were very friendly, showed me all about the mine, and gave me every information in their power; in fact, gave me their country; but when they saw that our blasting and quarrying the rocks did not produce gold as they expected, they felt much disappointed, and manifested a less friendly spirit; so much so, that I was glad to get away from them my small inefficient party.

"They were very friendly afterwards, both when the steamer and "Una" went to their country. Should a fort be established at the gold mine, not only these two tribes, but several others on the island would frequent, and probably reside at it.

"All the way from near North Island, Point North, to Cape St. James, along the west shore of the island, it is very rugged and mountainous, particularly so near Cape Henry, both north and south, about where the gold is found. From Cape St. James, along the east shore to near Skiddigat, east entrance of Cartwright's Sound, continuing along the shore to Point Invisible, Point Rose, the country is level, wooded, with clay and sandy cliffs in many places along the shore. I was ashore here at different places, and examined the soil, which appeared excellent; it is composed of black vegetable mould on the surface, succeeded by a considerable depth of marly clay; the timber is of considerable size. When the Indians resided on this part of the island, they raised plenty of very fine potatoes; so they report. From Point Invisible, along the north end of the island to North Island, the country, viewed from the sea, has the same appearance as that between Skiddigats and Point Invisible; and the Indians report the soil equally as good for producing potatoes, the only crops they grow.

"There is no harbour for a vessel or even for a boat, except to beach her, all the way from Skiddigats to Point Invisible; but there is anchorage some distance from the shore all along the way to North Island.

"The appearance of many inlets and bays along the west shore from North Island to Cape St. James, and from thence along the east shore to Skiddigats, as viewed from the sea, indicates that harbours may be found in different places.

"When I went with the canoe I intended to have gone all round the island, but the rough weather rendered it too dangerous to make the attempt.

"From the description the Indians gave of the place where they found the gold, I was under the impression that, even with the slender means we possessed, we could blast the rock, and quarry out the stones containing gold, to at least ballast, if not load a vessel. In this hope I was disappointed.

"I am, &c.

"James Douglas, Esq."

(signed) John Work.

On the 6th October Mr. Douglas dispatched the "Una," Captain Mitchell, with Chief Trader McNeill and 11 men, who were to pass the winter in Queen Charlotte's Island, and explore the interior. Mr. McNeill made the following report of his operations at Mitchell's Harbour, Queen Charlotte's Island:—

"Sir,

"Fort Simpson, 20 November 1851.

AFTER leaving Victoria I proceeded with the "Una" to fulfil your instructions of the 4th October 1851. We had a fine run to Queen Charlotte's Island of four days, after which a gale of wind came on which detained us off the place, Cape Henry, eight days, consequently we did not anchor in Mitchell's Harbour until the 20th October.

"On the second day after our arrival we commenced blasting the rock at the old place. We commenced in a vein of quartz, and were very successful; the rock proved to be rich with gold, as you will see by the specimens now forwarded by Dr. Kennedy. We followed the vein, and found it deeply impregnated with gold. The vein seems to take the direction up the mountain; in fact, our men were half way to the top, say 300 feet above the water, and found quartz rock, a specimen of which I now send you. In my opinion gold will be found in many places hereafter on the west side of the island, as quartz rock is to be found in every direction. We found it in four different places in Mitchell's