

name of this magnificent country to BRITISH COLUMBIA. The learned Colonial Minister ought to have acted on the idea that the territory watered by a river bearing the name of one of the most illustrious of the Scottish races, should have been allowed to retain the name of *Caledonia*. Was there not a marked similarity between the two countries? Were not both, as had been said of one of them by an eminent poet, "the land of the mountain and the flood?" The rivers of New Caledonia flow in all directions—east, west, north and south—from the highest mountain ranges of North America, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Those of ancient Caledonia rising in the highest mountains of the British Isles, in their headlong course, rush foaming through their rocky beds till, reaching the more level country, they flow in tranquil beauty through fertile fields and finely wooded valleys to the Northern, Atlantic and German Oceans. Is New Caledonia without any other inhabitant than the aboriginal savage—without any other habitation than the rude tent or the wretched wigwam? Are its waters without trade as yet\* and unknown to song? Even so, ancient Caledonia, some two thousand years ago, had no other inhabitant than the barbarian, whose only clothing was paint—no better dwelling for its people than the burrow in the hillside. No bard had as yet given celebrity to its streams: the merchant had not yet found out their treasures. What are they now? Mountain torrents, still as they rush from their rugged heights; but how different as they descend into the densely populated plains, expand into noble estuaries, bearing on their tide the rich merchantman, the formidable war-ship; welcoming every day to their placid waters the commerce and the wealth and the people of all nations.†

It must not be inferred from this likening of the new to the ancient Caledonia, that British Columbia is equal only in point of soil and climate to North Britain. Both were, indeed, lands of "the mountain and the flood;" but the climate of the former country is superior even to that of the south of England. The endless variety of its trees and shrubs and wild plants, which grow in the utmost luxuriance, leaves no room to doubt of its fertility. Being a mountainous country, it is necessarily more humid than the prairie lands of the Saskatchewan; but it possesses the advantage of being less subject to severe summer droughts than many level tracts of country to the east of the Rocky Mountains. What though its rugged mountain regions must ever remain impervious to the plough, they will always be crowned with magnificent forests, except where the height is too great to admit of such exuberant vegetation, thus affording a pleasing contrast with

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\* The opening of the gold mines at Cariboo, and the road to that region, nearly 400 miles in length, recently constructed, have caused a wonderful revolution, as regards trade and travel, along the rugged banks of the Fraser.

† There is another striking point of resemblance between New and ancient Caledonia. Who has not heard of the "parallel roads" of Glenroy, in the latter country? Travellers speak of similar roads or *terraces* on the great rivers of British Columbia—the Fraser, the Thomson, the Columbia. These terraces of the new world are on a larger scale than those of Scotland; but they indicate similar geological revolutions, which must have emancipated the waters from their mountain fastnesses at different epochs in both countries.