

nonsense. These were the same men who hooted the Governor on his passage, as before said.

Canoes and steamboats were now put in requisition for Victoria, and hundreds came down much quicker than they went up, and filled the place with consternation. The storekeepers of Victoria felt as if annihilated. That comet too, which had lately appeared shedding its radiant light every evening over the placid waters of the harbour, had shaken its ominous tail over their stores, and it could no longer be doubted that every thing would go on worse and worse. "Not an ounce of gold had as yet come down from the mines, and the miners were all leaving." Such was the general cry; and the exodus of miners from above, was followed by that of traders, restaurant and hotel keepers, and all those who could conveniently leave, or had never intended to remain from below. (1) The same facilities which had existed when coming to Victoria, were now at hand for those who wished to leave: very different in that respect from California in 1849, where the poor adventurer when once landed was caught as in a mouse trap, and obliged to work whether he pleased or not.

Business was at an end, since none could be transacted with the interior, and jobbers had nothing more to do but to "croak," sweep down cobwebs, smoke segars at their store doors, and project idle spittle into the street. This state of things became so intolerable, that the Governor at last took the tardy decision by which goods were admitted up river, on paying an *ad valorem* duty of 40 per cent. indiscriminately. The effects of this measure, however, were at first only partially felt; for each miner had taken up such a large stock of provisions with him, that when those who left sold out, they encumbered the mines with goods below cost, thus leaving those who remained more provided for than ever. Besides, all the old miners who stopped behind were steady, industrious men, who had become thrifty and spent little on superfluities.

The bright sunshine of past days was now over, and the sky dark

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(1. So little did some of these temporary residents care about the place, that they would not even subscribe for a fire reservoir! Are we much to blame for not regretting the loss of such selfish citizens?