

From these regions, which are wild without being romantic, and which, from the absence of any bold outline, never approach to the sublime or the beautiful, the traveller loves to descend to the smiling tracts which are occasionally to be met with on the sea-coast. In one of these Victoria is situated, and it is from a visit to it, and its neighbourhood, that tourists deduce their favourable ideas of the general nature of the island.

2. *History of Settlement and Population.*

In 1843, early in the spring of the year, the Hudson Bay Company first effected a settlement in Vancouver Island. They landed about forty men, under charge of Mr. Finlayson, and in a very short time constructed a picketed enclosure, containing the buildings usually appropriated by the Company to the storing of goods and to the accommodation of their servants. They landed at Victoria, called then by the natives Tsomus, from the name of the tribe which lives there : here they met with no opposition from the Indians, and, as soon as they had finished their buildings, they commenced bringing sufficient land under cultivation for the support of the establishment.

As in settling there no idea was entertained by the Hudson Bay Company beyond starting a fresh trading post with the Indians, the establishment remained in *statu quo* until the year 1849, when the granting of the whole island to the Company opened out a fresh field for their exertions ; and about this time, viz., in the commencement of the year 1849, there were some 80 acres in cultivation round Victoria. The draft of the charter for the granting of the island to the Company was laid before Parliament in August, 1848, but the grant, however, was not confirmed until the commencement of the year 1849 ; and it was then given to the Hudson Bay Company under condition that, within five years, they should have established satisfactory settlements on it for the purpose of colonization.

The conditions under which the Company proposed establishing a colony were as follow :—They were to sell land at the price of 1*l.* per acre to all intending settlers, who were moreover to be obliged to bring out five men at their own expense, from England, or other British possession, for every 100 acres which they purchased, being at the rate of one man for every 20 acres ; no single individual coming out was to be allowed to purchase more than 20 acres. Of the money arising from the proceeds of the sales of that land, 18*s.* 6*d.* in every pound sterling was to be applied to the benefit of the colony, only 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound being reserved to the Company to remunerate them, as it were, for their undertaking the agency of the disposal of the land. Colonists were to be allowed

to we
duty
on u
unde
out l
pend
the i
havin
count

In
the I
at Fe
paid
tion,
coal
tional
On m
Victo
and
serve
ousin
the n
of wh
was r

Th
souls,
with
emig
side ;
the p
one-f
prese
Soun
neigh
men
T
abov
Vict
the

T
end
10,
the
dua
v