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The second Paper read was—

2. *British Columbia. Journeys in the Districts bordering on the Fraser, Thompson, and Harrison Rivers.* By Lieuts. MAYNE, R.N., and PALMER, R.E., and Chief-Justice M. BEGGIE.

Communicated by the DUKE of NEWCASTLE, Colonial Office.

THE above communications are written at considerable length, and are so largely occupied with the description of numerous but essential details, that it is impossible to do justice to them in so short an abstract as the following, especially without the assistance of a map.

Lieutenant Palmer was ordered by Colonel Moody to make an engineering reconnaissance of the neighbourhood of Fraser River. He reports minutely on the steps that should be taken at each point of his route in order to make a good communication for cart or boat traffic. He has fixed the geographical positions of numerous places, and he gives a detailed account of all the patches of land available for cultivation which fell under his notice. His report is accompanied by six explanatory plans and three photographic views.

Lieutenant Mayne was detached from H.M.S. *Plumper* by order of Captain Richards on a somewhat similar errand to that above