

NOTES ON VANCOUVER ISLAND.

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THERE is, perhaps, no other island of its size in Queen Victoria's broad dominions which possesses as much interest at the present time, in relation to the Empire, as does Vancouver Island. Situated on the north-west coast of America, and occupying a position on the Pacific coast analogous to that of the British Isles on the coast of the Atlantic, it extends in a north-westerly direction parallel to the mainland, from the south-east, for a length of about 300 miles, with a breadth varying from 20 to 60 miles. The capital of the Province of British Columbia, Victoria, is situated near the east end of the island. It is connected by an electric railway with the town of Esquimalt and its commodious harbour, the naval station of the North Pacific.

The west coast of the island is indented by deep inlets, or canals as they are sometimes termed. One of these, the Alberni Canal, extends from Barclay Sound for over 20 miles into the interior, and is of sufficient depth along the whole distance to float the largest ships of the navy. Another inlet, also navigable by the largest ocean-going vessels, begins at Quatsino Sound, and crosses the island to within 7 miles of the eastern coast near Fort Rupert, so named by the Hudson Bay Company in honour of Prince Rupert.

Noctka Sound, near the centre of the island on the west side, first became celebrated by the arrival there of Captain Cook in 1778, on his third voyage around the world. The natives received him kindly. He