

"Redonda." This is a fine passage, and shortens the distance about ten miles in going to Klahous Inlet.

The distance from Klahous Inlet to Homathco Inlet (Bute Inlet on the chart) is about thirty miles; but I could not get the Indians to go in the small canoe.

The Indians told me that the colour of the water in the large river that comes in at the head of Homathco from the north-west was the same as Fraser River; and thus when I proceed thither I should be in or near the range of Queen Charlotte Islands, where I should get gold.

We had a hard passage to Nanaimo; but arrived all right, paid off the Indians, and heard from Captain Stuart that he had forwarded supplies to Jervis Inlet by order of your Excellency, so that I was all ready for a start again to Desolation Sound, if I could obtain a small decked-boat.

Fort St. James, Stuart Lake, New Caledonia,
10th October, 1859.

SIR,

I beg to make the following report of my trip to Queen Charlotte Islands, and my journey thence by Fort Simpson to the interior of British Columbia.

Having left Victoria on the 27th July, with twenty-seven practical miners, with stores, &c., for three months, we arrived in Gold Harbour, Queen Charlotte Islands, safely, on the 6th August, and immediately set about prospecting.

We examined the spot where a large quantity of gold was formerly taken out, and discovered a few specks of it in the small quartz-seams that run through the slate; two of the party blasting the rock, while others prospected round the harbour.

I then proceeded in a canoe to Douglas Inlet, which runs in south of Gold Harbour, hoping to find traces of the Gold Harbour lead, but without success. The nature of the rock is trap or hornblende, with a few poor seams of quartz straggling over the surface. Granite was found at the head of this inlet, but not a speck of gold. Next day we went up an inlet to the north of Gold Harbour, and here a white rock showed itself on the spur of a mountain.

After a difficult ascent we found it to be nothing but weather-beaten, sun-dried granite, instead of quartz. Farther up the inlet we saw a little black slate and some talcose rock, but nothing that looked like gold. On our return, we found that the men engaged in blasting the rock had given it up; the few surface specks being all the gold that could be found.

The large amount of gold that was formerly found with so little difficulty existed in what is called an offshot or blow. The question then arises how did the gold get here. Some of our party were of opinion that a gold lead exists close at hand, but it can only be put down to one of the extraordinary freaks of nature so often found in a mineral country.

The offshoots in question are not uncommon, as I have often seen them in California. On such a discovery being made, hundreds of miners would take