

hawthorn in May; the evening was delicious, and the whole scene gave me a pleasure, such as I had not experienced before since leaving old England.

#### THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

May 24.—The Governor invited a large party to spend the day with him, in celebration of the Queen's birthday; he chartered a steamer, the *Maria*, for an excursion to the head of Pitt Lake and up the river of that name; we started at eleven from the Camp wharf. The day was dull, there was some rain, but on the whole the weather was good.

The *Maria* is one of those extraordinary vessels, peculiar to America, which combine light draught, ample accommodation, power, and speed; 200 people might be stowed in her and she would not be two feet in the water. Her wheel was behind. We passed up the rich and beautiful banks of the Fraser, about five miles, when we came to several islands, one called Free Island, behind which flowed in the Coquettum. We took up a settler here, and his friend, a fine old Irish gentleman, who, had wandered from Ireland to Australia and from Australia here, where he resides upon 400 acres of land with his two sons; he is a communicant, his daughter was confirmed at Victoria recently, and his sons are preparing for the same ordinance.

Manson's Island shortly after divided the channel of the Fraser, and on one side, the north, lay the Pitt River about half a mile wide; this we entered and steamed along a fine reach with meadows on either side. At one point is the farm of Mr. Maclean, who fired a salute as we passed. Mr. Good, the Governor's secretary, has a farm also, on which we observed several stacks of hay. After proceeding about twelve or fourteen miles, passing several Indian villages, we came to the entrance of the lake; the scenery had now become mountainous, we were passing through a range called the Coast Range.

The lake now entered was about fifteen miles long, it is exactly like a Scotch lake, and we seemed to be on Loch Ness. Captain Spalding, whose father for many years has lived at Fort Augustin on that lake, expressed the same opinion; the only difference was that this land was more lofty, and the lake, perhaps, broader, but it was not above two miles. At one or two points, where the lake turned, and where was a view both ways, nothing could exceed the beauty of the scene; waterfalls came pouring down in a white froth by the water-side, occasionally hidden by the trees, and then visible again below; fir trees lined the sides and summits of the perpendicular heights to the extent of from 600 to 1,500 feet. At three o'clock we reached the head of the lake, there we anchored and a boat went on to proceed up a small river; we turned back at four and sat down in the saloon to an excellent repast.

The Governor proposed the loyal toasts of the old country. The bishop and clergy of the diocese were received with much kindness; in returning thanks for my own health, and that of the clergy, I said, among other points, we desired to forward, without being politicians, the institutions of the land; I rejoiced that a step toward self-government had been taken in the grant of a Municipal Council to New Westminster. The clergy came out to live and die amongst them, we dreamed not of returning back