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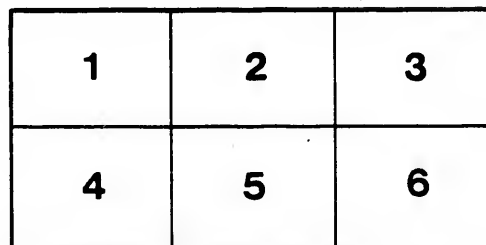
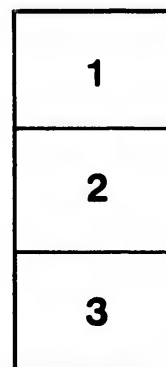
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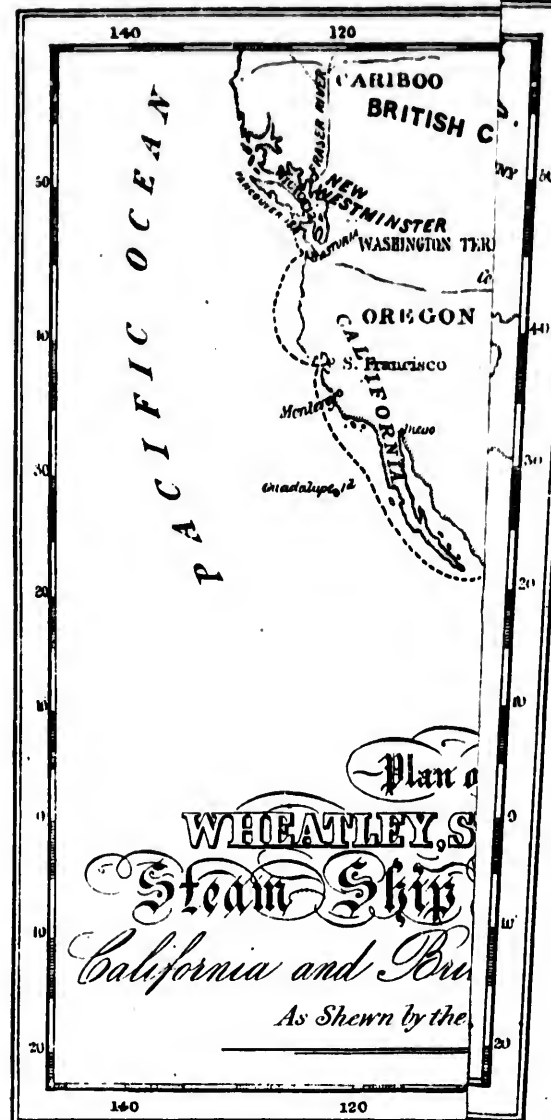
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 BY A
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 WHO HAS MADE HIS FORTUNE THERE, AND
 ADVISES OTHERS TO GO AND MAKE THEIRS.

CONTENTS:	
	PAGE
CHAPTER I.—A FEW WORDS ON BRITISH COLUMBIA.....	3
CHAPTER II.—THE RUSH FROM CALIFORNIA.....	11
CHAPTER III.—FACTS FOR GOLD DIGGERS.....	14
CHAPTER IV.—LIFE AT THE DIGGINGS.....	21
CHAPTER V.—ARTICLES INDISPENSABLE TO THE EMIGRANT.....	25
CHAPTER VI.—ROUTES TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.....	29
USEFUL "ON DITS".....	31

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GUIDE BOOK
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BRITISH COLUMBIA.

CHAPTER I.

A FEW WORDS ON BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BRITISH COLUMBIA, otherwise known as New Caledonia, (which also includes Queen Charlotte Island) and Vancouver Island, have been but recently known to the British public, for until the discovery of gold in the former in 1858, they were little thought of, and little valued by the English Government. For the information of the reader it will be necessary to give a few words on the geography of the territory.

British Columbia is situated on the north-west coast of the North American continent, and is bounded to the north by the Russian territory, to the south by the United States territory of Oregon, to the west by the Pacific Ocean, and to the east by the Rocky Mountains. It is situated about 800 miles further north by the Pacific Ocean than San Francisco, the capital of California, with which it keeps up regular communication by means of powerful steamers; so that British Columbia is not so far from civilized neighbours as she has been represented. In fact, California is such a good neighbour that she supplies British Columbia with nine-tenths of the provisions she has to import for the consumption of the gold diggers.

Before going much further it should be stated that British Columbia until a few years since was named New Caledonia, so that persons searching the map for the former title will not be surprised to find New Caledonia instead. Let it therefore be understood that British Columbia and New Caledonia is one, and one only, tract of land.

British Columbia is situated almost exactly in America as Great Britain is in Europe, namely to the north-west, and between parallels 48° and $56^{\circ} 30'$. Its dimensions are computed by a high authority as follow:—420 miles long; 250 to 300

2

miles in breadth; with an area of square miles of about 200,000. This country, or as *The Times* said the other day, this new garden of Eden, Land of Promise, or El Dorado, is said to have been discovered by the Spaniards in the 15th century, but even if such was the case nothing is known to confirm it. Sir Francis Drake made certain discoveries on the north-west coast soon after the Spaniards were supposed to have been there, but to Captains Cook and Vancouver the most important discoveries are due.

It was first inhabited by the white man in 1806, when the North West Company formed some settlements there, and to within the last few years British Columbia has been an unknown district except to the employees of the Hudson Bay Company. It was classed by the company as one of the richest of their territories, although the chief article of trade between them and the Indians was fur, which the latter exchanged for muskets, blankets, &c.

As to the climate, Mr. Cox, a great authority, says:—"The spring commences in April, when the wild flowers begin to bud; and from thence to the latter end of May the weather is delightful. In June it rains incessantly, with strong southerly and westerly winds. During the months of July and August, the heat is insupportable; and in September the fogs are so dense that it is quite impossible to distinguish the opposite side of the river any morning before ten o'clock. Colds and rheumatism are prevalent among the natives during this period; nor are our people exempt from them. In October, the falling of the leaves and occasional frost announce the beginning of winter. The lakes and parts of the rivers are frozen in November. The snow seldom exceeds twenty-four inches in depth. The mercury, in Fahrenheit's thermometer, falls in January to 10° below 0; but this does not continue for many days."

This writer believes that were the natives to take proper care of themselves, they would live to a very great age in this climate. A resident in the colony for eight years, says:—

"In the salubrity of its climate, the territory on the shores of the Pacific cannot be surpassed by any country in the world: the soil, too, is fertile in the highest degree, and possesses great agricultural capabilities. The face of the country presents a succession of mountain ranges, valleys, and plains—the more fertile districts lying, for the most part, between the Cascade Mountains and the Pacific. That portion of the country which lies between the Cascade Mountains and the Pacific is subject to a remarkably equable temperature, the mean being about 54° Fahrenheit. The equable character of the climate is probably occasioned by the circumstances of the prevailing summer winds being from the north and laden with the cooling influences of the Polar Sea; and that the winter winds coming from the south, and the south-east—except the latter, which comes from the snows of the mountains—tend to prevent that degree of cold which would otherwise prevail. There are about four months of winter, generally beginning in November and lasting till March. Snow seldom lies for more than a week on the ground; and, though there are frequent rains, they are not heavy. Slight frosts occur as early as September. The air, however, is pure and healthy. The eastern section, under the snows of the Rocky Mountains, cannot be praised for its climate. It is subject to great and sudden changes of temperature, occasionally going through all the gradations of summer, autumn, and winter in a single day."

The eastern section, spoken of above as being under the snows of the Rocky Mountains is not where the gold diggings are, but far away from them. There is no doubt but that gold is to be found in immense quantities in this section, and will eventually be brought to light through the skill and enterprise of Anglo-Saxons. When it is considered that diggers can

make 30s. to £20 a-day in the western section with its fine climate, none but the greedy and adventurous will go to the far east.

One objection made by intended emigrants is that the colony is populated for the most part by Indians. And what if it is? The Indians are not of the same tribes that the American backwood's man has to encounter in the United States, but a peaceful and well conducted set. They number considerably less than 100,000, and their numbers are decreasing yearly, so that in a quarter of a century more, an Indian will be considered almost a novelty in this fine colony. Some make very good mechanics, and are engaged by the white men when driven up for want of hands, but generally their engagements are very short, for the natives do not know the value of a good situation under a white man. Therefore the emigrant has nothing to fear from the Indians if he behaves properly to them himself.

Vancouver Island, which lies off the mainland about 80 miles, is a spot well suited to a large and growing population, which it is destined to have. On this island is situated the capital of the colony, Victoria, and the very favourable position in which it stands will render it a commercial port of great importance. With China, Japan, and India a large trade could be carried on. Good coal can be obtained in large quantities in the island, and the export of this article to San Francisco, where it fetches from £5 to £6 per ton, would amply repay the capitalist for what money he invests in it. A great naval station is likely to be formed on Vancouver Island.

The animals of British Columbia are not numerous. There are rein-deer, which are sometimes 'bagged' by the diggers; the grizzled, black, brown, and chocolate bears, which are caught by the natives in wooden traps. The chevreuil, or jumping deer, is plentiful in the neighbourhood of Fort Alexander, which is between Cariboo and the old gold digging. The district is still rich in beavers, martens, whistler (named from the noise it makes when surprised), and the other furbearing animals. Rabbits are to be found in abundance. Dogs are likewise plentiful; are small-bred, and much resemble the Esquimaux dog, with the curled-up tail, small ears, and pointed nose. When eaten, their flesh forms a very agreeable dish; but the chief use for which these animals are adapted is to draw the sledges. Two of them will draw a load of 250lbs, together with provisions for themselves and their driver, and

go at the rate of four miles an hour.

Of birds there are several species of grouse, the drum partridge, the Mexican woodpecker; the wild duck, mallard, the golden eye, teal, crested grebe, snipe, large species of crane, are the chief of aquatic birds. In the summer months the aquatic birds keep towards the Polar Sea, but in winter the whole coast is covered with them; and the sportsman must be a poor shot, who cannot make a living with his gun in winter.

The coast, rivers, and lakes are swarming with fish, which forms the principal article of food of the natives. Sturgeon weighing from 250lbs. to 600lbs. are frequently caught, and often measure from six to twelve feet in length. Four species of salmon are found there in immense quantities, and can be seen ascending the Frazer River in shoals from the ocean. The natives catch them by wholesale, and preserve them as winter provisions. Trout, carp, and white-fish are also very plentiful in the colony.

Wild fruit, grateful to the palate, and wholesome and nutritious to the stomach, are found in the vicinity of the gold diggings. The Indian pear is the most abundant, and is not unlike the English species: a blackish colour when ripe, with somewhat of a reddish tinge, pear-shaped, and very sweet to the taste. Blueberries are plentiful in some parts of the colony, and in their taste sweet and acid are deliciously blended. Strawberries, gooseberries, choke cherries, whortleberries, and service berries are also found there.

A resident in the colony for eight years tells us that the western district (that is along the coast) is peculiarly well adapted for agricultural operations. In some places there is a deep black vegetable loam, in others a light brown loam. The hills are of basalt, stone, and slate. The undulating surface is well watered and well wooded, bearing pine, spruce, red and white oak, ash, arbutus, cedar, arbor-vitæ, poplar, maple, willow, cherry, and yew, besides underwood of hazel and roses. All kinds of grain can be procured in abundance. Pears and apples succeed admirably, and the different vegetables produced in England yield there most abundant crops. In the middle section, which is 1,000 feet higher than the western, excellent crops and large stocks of cattle have, it is said, been raised by the missionaries near the Cascade Mountains. Other authorities tell us the colony will prove a fine one for agriculturalists. Lying near the Frazer River is a vast tract of low pasture-land, where thousands of cattle and sheep could graze, and along the

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both banks of the same stream a quantity of fertile land is ready for the plough.

On the occasion of the introduction of the British Columbian Bill in the House of Commons, the Colonial Minister (Sir Lytton Bulwer), said,—I give the house a sketch of the little that is known to us through official sources of the territory in which these new gold fields have been discovered. The territory lies between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific; it is bounded on the north by the American frontier line, 49° of latitude, and may be considered to extend to the sources of the Frazer River, in latitude 55°. It is, therefore, about 420 miles long in a straight line, its average breadth about 250 to 300 miles. Taken from corner to corner its greatest length would be, however, 805 miles, and its greatest breadth 400 miles. Mr. Arrowsmith computes its area of square miles, including Queen Charlotte Island, at somewhat more than 200,000 miles. Of its two gold-bearing rivers, one, the Frazer, rises in the northern boundary, and, flowing south, falls into the sea at the south-west extremity of the territory, opposite the southern end of Vancouver Island, and within a few miles of the American boundary; the other, the Thompson River, rises in the Rocky Mountains, and, flowing westward, joins the Frazer about 150 miles from the coast. It is on these two rivers, and chiefly at their confluence, that the gold discoveries have been made. Honourable gentlemen who look at the map may imagine this new colony at an immeasurable distance from England, but we have already received overtures from no less eminent a person than Mr. Cunard for a line of postal steam-vessels for letters, goods, and passengers, by which it is calculated that a passenger starting from Liverpool may reach this colony in about 35 days by way of New York and Panama. With regard to the soil, there is said to be some tolerable land on the lower part of Frazer River. But the Thompson River district is described as one of the finest countries in the British dominions, with a climate far superior to that of countries in the same latitude on the other side of the mountains. Mr. Cooper, who gave valuable evidence before our committee on this district, with which he is thoroughly acquainted, recently addressed to me a letter, in which he states that "its fisheries are most valuable, its timber the finest in the world for marine purposes. It abounds with bituminous coal, well fitted for the generation of steam. From Thompson River & Colville districts to the Rocky Mountains, and from the forty-ninth parallel some 350 miles

north, a more beautiful country does not exist. It is in every way suitable for colonization." Therefore apart from the gold fields, this country affords every promise of a flourishing and important colony.

The Hon. Charles Fitzwilliam, M.P., himself a member of the Committee, gave the following as his opinion of the island of Vancouver:—I was in Vancouver Island in the winter 1852-3. The climate appeared to me particularly adapted for settlement by Englishmen; it resembles the climate of England, but not quite so cold; the soil is generally productive. The country is divided into wood and prairie. I visited the coal mines at Nanaimo; they were working a six-feet seam of coal at a depth of forty feet, and which is close to the sea shore. The coal is of excellent quality, very like the West Riding of Yorkshire coal. The soil and climate are remarkably fine, and produce excellent wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes; the timber is magnificent, and the harbour of Esquimaux [which is a few miles from Victoria] is the finest I ever saw. Nobody who has not seen the enormous quantities of fish can possibly credit the value and excellence of the fisheries; the only safe harbours on the coast exist in Vancouver Island, with the exception of San Francisco.

Vancouver Island is decidedly the superior of the two with regard to climate, but British Columbia has the greatest inducements to the emigrant in her gold fields.

The soil of Vancouver Island produces excellent wheat crops. Mr. Baillie has raised forty-four bushels to the acre off some land which he farms for the Hudson Bay Company, about three miles from Victoria. Heavy crops of peas have also been raised in the same place, and at a place named Soke, Colonel Grant raised excellent crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, turnips, and potatoes; Swedish turnips in particular did remarkably well, and produced a very heavy crop. In all arable portions of the island the land is favourable to the production of green crops of every description; vegetables also grow particularly well, and esculent roots of all sorts attain a great size. Oats have generally been a failure, which Colonel Grant thinks to be owing to their having been sown too late in the season.

The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Young, in a Report dated Victoria, 22nd February, 1861, says:—"British Columbia being a gold producing country, with little else than the gold yet developed, it is difficult to recommend any particular class to emigrate to its shores. Amongst the miners are to be found men of every class and trade, who, when sufficient inducements

offer, by there being a demand for their particular calling, will readily abandon the one occupation to engage in the other, and *vice versa*. But the resources of the country, independently of gold, are undoubtedly great, and the prospects held out to an industrial population by no means discouraging, even in this early stage. Land can be easily acquired by pre-emption without immediate payment, and the soil is abundantly fruitful; while the demand for its productions hitherto far exceeds the supply. Men of steady and industrious habits, possessed of small capital, who would be content to forego the glittering, though perhaps meretricious, allurements of the gold fields, remembering that where one man may realise a competence, hundreds do actually fail in procuring more than a livelihood, would, there is but little doubt, do well in following agricultural pursuits in British Columbia. Those who have done so, hitherto, have reaped a rich harvest. Men of the 'navigator' class would also, it is believed, do well, for the Government are engaged in the almost interminable work of opening out roads and communications to the interior, and the cost of labour hitherto upon such works as these has, in consequence of the principal portion being drawn from the gold fields, been very heavy.

"Female domestic servants would meet with instant employment, and for this class there is, and would be, a continual demand, as the disproportion of males is so great, that an unmarried woman who has reached the age of 20 is, it is believed, not to be found in the colony.

"Vancouver's Island offers good inducements to farm labourers, mechanics of every description, and domestic servants of both sexes, but especially to female domestics, as the few at present to be found in the island readily obtain places at wages varying from £4 to £6 per month. A large proportion of the vegetables consumed in Vancouver's Island are imported from the neighbouring American territory, and it may, therefore, be fairly assumed that agricultural pursuits would yield a good return. Small farmers would do well, but they must be possessed of sufficient capital to be independent for the first twelve months.

"The pre-emption system is established in Vancouver's Island, and rich and valuable land within a short distance of Victoria, the capital, if not open to pre-emption, can be readily leased at a ground rent of from 4s. to £1 per acre per annum."

Frazer River is the largest river in the colony, and the only one that need be mentioned here. It rises near the Canoe

River, and after a western course of 150 miles, the Salmon River falls into it. Stuarts' River and Quesnel River fall into it a little further down, to be followed by the Chilcotin River and Thompson River. Consequent on so many streams finding their way into the Frazer, and the current so strong, the river is very dangerous to sailing vessels, which can only navigate it to about 50 miles from its mouth. Steamers perform the remainder of the voyage.

Gold was first discovered in Queen Charlotte Island which is off the main-land about 60 miles, and about 150 miles further north than Vancouver Island, in the year 1850, but the yield of the precious mineral was so small as not to be a sufficient inducement for diggers to turn from California to this island. Three years later another discovery was made, but this time on the main-land. In 1853 while a party of engineers were surveying on the Columbia River (which is nearer the Rocky Mountains than Frazer River) gold was discovered in large quantities, and the diggers made about £2.10s., per week by digging. In 1856 the diggings on the Columbia River improved so that frequently as much as £8 per week was realised by those employed. However, it was not until 1858 that the gold discoveries on Frazer River created such a sensation throughout the world, and thousands of persons left San Francisco for the new El Dorado.



CHAPTER II.

THE RUSH FROM CALIFORNIA.

It has already been stated in the previous chapter, that the discoveries of gold did not attract much attention until 1858. Then it was not doubted that gold in large quantities was obtainable in British Columbia, and at once, thousands of adventurers who are always ready to pick gold up in the streets, rushed from all quarters of the globe. The rush however, was confined chiefly to San Francisco, the head port of California, and the fact that diggers leaving the gold fields there for British Columbia, at once places the latter district at the head of the gold fields of America.

San Francisco presented a scene that no one living in Europe has any conception of. We have all heard of the rush of our population to Australia to pick up the nuggets which lay upon the surface, or just beneath it, but let the reader imagine some 3 or 4,000 adventurers leaving one small sea-port in a week or two for the land of gold. They were people of all nations; convicts, runaway bankrupts, and exiles from Europe formed no small portion of the band. The criminal from Newgate, the fraudulent merchant, and the noble of France, Germany or Hungary were to be seen walking side by side, shouldering their picks and shovels, pans and rockers. Gold digging any man will work at, so that the scapegrace of Europe is converted into a useful machine in America.

An interesting letter appeared in *The Times* from its own correspondent at San Francisco, dated June 14th, 1858. The following extracts will give the reader some idea of the immense fortunes made there, previous to the more recent discoveries at Cariboo:—

"The only way in which I can give an intelligible statement in a moderate compass is to SET THE FACTS from the mass of correspondence and personal details at hand. The following is the experience of a man of San Francisco, well known here, connected with a business firm in this place, and whose statement is worthy of credit. He left San Francisco in April, and in company with seven others, ascended the Fraser River, 275

miles. I will let him tell his story in his own way, interposing only such remarks of my own as will be explanatory of his "terms" and of the localities mentioned. "We prospected all along coming up from Fort Hope to Sailor's Bar, several days' travel, and in some places got two hits to the pan, and in some places five cents." Two "hits" may be set down as of the value of a shilling sterling. "We camped and commenced mining at Sailor's Bar," about 25 miles above Fort Yale, "which has rich diggings, in some places paying as high as six hits to the pan." The "pan" most readers know by this time, is a small tin basin with which the digger "washes" the gravel containing the gold. "When I arrived miners were making as high as six ounces a day to the rocker." These are enormous earnings. Six ounces of gold at its market value of 16 dollars the ounce, would be nearly £21 sterling, as the product of the daily labour of two men, which a "rocker" should have to work it efficiently—one to 'fill' and another to 'rock', and not hard work either, barring the inconvenience of being in the water. Such results were frequent in the early times of California mining, when the soil was 'virgin.' "We mined along the banks of the river (the Frazer), and the average was from two to three ounces per day to the rocker. Miners are at work all along the banks of the river," for about 25 miles above Fort Yale. "They average from two to four ounces a day." These returns refer to mining carried on on such 'bars' of the Frazer River as were exposed; but the view of all of the water from the melting of the snow in the mountains far up rendered the work uncertain till August, when the waters subside for the season.

"This man describes the country as 'very rich and beautiful, but high and mountainous. You are surrounded by mountains entirely. There is plenty of timber, and everything a miner can wish for, except game and provisions.' This is rather a grave desideratum, as a miner cannot eat gold. However, there is some 'balm in Gilead.' "There are plenty of salmon in the river, and brown bears in the woods. They (the bears) are very good eating." They are much more accommodating 'bears' than their 'grizzly' brethren of California, whose flesh is as tough as shoe-leather. "Wherever we 'prospected' (above Fort Yale) we found gold—at some places more, at others less; but we found gold EVERYWHERE."

"The special correspondent of the 'San Francisco Bulletin,' a reliable authority, writes from Fort Langley, 25 miles up the Frazer, under date May 29th, that he had just come down from Fort Yale—the locality above spoken of—where he found 60 men and 300 Indians with their squaws, at work on a 'bar' of about 500 yards in length, called 'Hill's Bar,' 1 mile below Fort Yale, and 15 from Fort Hope, all trading parts of the Hudson's Bay Company. "The morning I arrived two men (Kerrison & Co.) cleaned up 5½ ounces from the rocker, the product of half a day's work. Kerrison & Co. the next day cleaned up 10½ ounces from the rockers, which I saw myself weighed." This bar is acknowledged to be one of the richest ever seen, and well it may be, for here is a product of 15½ ounces of gold, worth 47½ dollars, or £20 sterling, from it in a day and a half to the labour of two rockers. The average result per day to the man was fully 23 dollars; some much more."

Other instances are mentioned of the extraordinary fortunes to be made there. At Sailor Diggings, above Fort Yale, miners were doing well, averaging from £2 to £5 per day per man. One man made £120 in little more than a fortnight. Three others got about £130 in twelve days. An old Californian miner who had been to Frazer River said that there was plenty of gold to be had there, and advised diggers in San Francisco not to be in a hurry as the gold will last for years.

As the summer came, scores of successful diggers came down from British Columbia to San Francisco with their bags of gold, the results of a few days' labour. The sight of so many bags of gold made the Californians look out, and ere long a rush was made for the field of gold. The following from *The Times* correspondent is well worth attention:—

"From San Francisco itself a great many have gone, and more are going. Common labourers, bricklayers, carpenters, printers, cabinet makers, &c.,—in short, all the mechanical art are already represented in Vancouver's Island. Other classes go as well; in fact the major portion whose interests can permit are going. People seem to have suddenly come to the conclusion that it is their fate to go. 'Going to Frazer's River?' 'Yes, of course, I must go.' 'You are going?' 'Yes, Sir; I'm bound to go.' NONE ARE TOO POOR AND NONE TOO RICH TO GO. NONE TOO YOUNG AND NONE TOO OLD TO GO;—EVEN THE DEAFEST GO."

Such are a few,—and a very few—instances of the rapid

wealth accumulated by the diggers. The rush of the miners from San Francisco is described by an eyewitness who went down to the wharf and on board to see the sight."

"It resembled a crowd at one of the London Theatres on a 'star' night. Her proper complement is 800, and she would not be comfortable with more than 600 passing so. She took to-day 1600 'at least,' it is commonly said."

Even the proprietor of the *San Francisco News*, a journal of great respectability, started for the diggings with his cradle to his back, "to judge for myself" as he said. On arrival at Victoria, a Frenchman was met with 27lbs. of gold with him, which he had taken from the soil.



CHAPTER III.

FACTS FOR GOLD DIGGERS.

We have given sufficient particulars of the gold fields in 1858, to shew that there is actually a field open for the employment of thousands, and tens of thousands of hands; and we shall now convince the incredulous that *there is gold enough left in British Columbia to pay the digger for searching for it till the next century.*

The years '59, '60 came and went, and with them also flowed the tide of emigration from the United States and Europe, but so many returned to San Francisco with their fortunes made, that the diggers had not greatly increased in number in the colony.

1861, however, was the year of gold digging. A region more in the interior was discovered to be one field of gold, and the rush from the other diggings to this one was great in consequence. In fact, nearly all the gold found in British Columbia in 1861 was from this new land of promise; and which in the language of an eye-witness "is destined to attract the notice of the world to a degree hitherto not accorded to the country in the aggregate." This newly-discovered district is called CARIBOO (a corruption of *Cerf-bauf*, a large species of reindeer which inhabits the country). This district is situated further in the interior than any field before discovered. From the mouth of the Frazer River, or the extreme south coast of British Columbia, it is 500 miles distant, north-east direction. To reach this spot is easy for a man with the heart and will to do well in the world. Suppose him to arrive at Victoria (Vancouver Island), he will then take passage in one of the pretty little river steamers that ply on the Frazer, which will land him (if a light steam-boat) within 50 or 60 miles of the

Cariboo diggings. He need not fear of ever getting there, for he can dig gold along the banks of the river, as he proceeds towards Cariboo, thus compensating for idle time. At last he arrives at Cariboo, and commences business on his own account; in partnership (or company, as there called) with one or two others; or engages himself to a miner to assist him in digging, for which he can obtain from £1 to £1 12s. *per day with rations*, and there is always a demand for men of this class. If he digs for himself he had better take out a mining license, which costs £1, and with this the miner can claim the protection of the law to vindicate his rights of property to his ground. It is the best thing a digger can do to take out a license, for should his ground prove to be rich in gold he knows no one can take it from him, whereas if he had not a license a Californian "rough" might pop in and say, "You must not dig here, for this is my property." If he enters in partnership he would know who he is dealing with, so that he should have no fears of their running off with the gold after it is procured.

While speaking of the trip up the Frazer it will be well to say that the cost of a miner getting from Victoria to Cariboo would be from £10 to £15, or by the time any reader of this book should have arrived there the fare might vary as low as £5 or as high as £20, according to the amount of competition among steam-boat proprietors, or the number of passengers who go by them.

As to security of life, it is just as safe there as in England, only the emigrant is recommended to mind his own business, and not poke his head where he had no reason to, or he might find himself in a hornet's nest. There is no lynch law in this colony, as there was in California, and all disputes are settled by the Government Gold Commissioners, without using the revolver or the bowie-knife.

The prospects of the digger are brilliant. *They are as clear as the sun at noon—as certain as that water quenches thirst! The man who works must make money,—he has nothing to lose, everything to gain!*

These are strong words, but they are nevertheless true!

Cariboo is not far from the sources of the south branch (for there are two branches,—north and south) of Frazer River, and is a large open country 50 miles long, and 30 in breadth,—one mass of mountains and streams, and is situated near the Hudson Bay Company's settlement of Fort George, otherwise Fort St. George, in about lat. 53° 50' N. The seasons are

represented as follows:—

"We had from the first discovery of this gold district heard most unfavourable reports of the severity of the winter to come, which was said to render the country uninhabitable. The matter was not at rest by some Canadians who wintered at Cariboo last year. They found the intensity of the cold so much less than in the Canadas that they represented the climate as mild compared with that of their native country. It is inappreciable from the altitude and the absence of mountains, the level land being about 5,000 feet and the mountains 5,000 feet more above the level of the sea. The spring is wet, and the summer subject to frequent rains. The snow falls in October, and when the winter is fairly set in the weather continues cold, clear and dry. The mining season continues from May to October at present; but when accommodations increase, and the miners begin to tunnel the banks and hills for gold as they soon will do, the winter will present no obstacles to continuous work, under cover of adits, during the whole season."

Of the successful diggers they are legion, in fact it is one grand lottery in which every share is a prize. There are no blanks! Every one that has been there has dug gold, and it is believed the gold will last out for twenty years—perhaps for ever. A miner said that his "claim" would last him ten years to work it out. It does not matter in the least who goes there to dig gold, for such classes as gentlemen, trademen, artisans, and labourers are found to get on as well as the old Californian miner. The truth is the gold is so plentiful and so easy to get at that *even children could do just as well as adults.*

Last May some persons who never perhaps took a spade in their hands before, took out of the soil £40 worth of gold in a day each, and this lasted a long time. Another dug up £185 worth of gold in *one day*, and he always averaged about £80 per day at his "claim". We hear of two other men getting £180 by gold digging in two days. Companies of miners were getting £10 to £20 a day each by digging along the river, and another miner got more than £300 worth of gold out of two crevices in the rock about three feet down.

Governor Douglas reports as follows:—"Steele's company consisted of five partners, of which Mr. Steele, an American, was one. Their claim was on William's Creek (Cariboo, of course). In the summer they sawed the lumber themselves and made their own sluices. Their claim did not prospect as good as many other claims. Nevertheless, they went at it with a will; made nothing the first three days; persevered, and the fourth day made 4oz.; the fifth day, 10oz.; and the sixth day, 11oz. From that time, after the sixth day's work, when the return rose to 41oz. a day, it kept increasing, until it reached 387oz. a day; and the last day's work yielded a return of 409oz. The five partners employed "four hired hands" to assist them to clear away the tailings. The claim was one of the most difficult to work, as it required 8 feet to 18 feet of top-stripping of superincumbent earth which covered the auriferous stratum,

or "pay dirt." This latter was composed of a blue clay, six feet thick, mixed with gravel and decomposed slate. The whole area of the mine worked was only 80 feet by 25 feet, and the yield amounted to 163,000 dols., equal to £21,875. That so much gold was dug out of so small a space as 80 feet by 25 feet, is a pregnant fact. It proves that the wealth buried in this remote region lies concentrated in masses thick and plentiful, which is corroborated by the shortness of the period of labour—not over two months' actual work. This is a short period to have earned £21,875 in, certainly, yet the exuberance of the gold of these mines is more clearly demonstrated by the rapidity of the accumulation. I shall show this result more clearly by converting Mr. Steele's gold ounces into American currency. The produce of the labour of the first day that the claim yielded anything was 68 dols.; that of the next day, 170 dols.; of the following day, 697 dols.; and so on, increasing until it reached the astounding sum of 6,579 dols. in a day; and culminated in a "return" of 6,933 dols. on the "last day's work."

The extent of country known to contain gold is enormous, —and yet but a twentieth part has been explored—leaving a mighty field open for those who have yet to dig there. Let us commence with Frazer River. This river is known to be fruitful with gold from near its source in the Rocky Mountains to about 50 miles from its mouth,—not much less than 1,000 miles in length. The small rivers, or streams, that fall into the Frazer, are all gold-producing; and there are no less than 60 of these tributaries of the Frazer! Take their average length at 50 miles each, we have 3,000 miles more of gold country. This is a very small computation, for some of the rivers are many hundred miles in length, and they, themselves, are fed by scores of other streams. In fact, British Columbia may be said to be divided into two parts, one consisting of water and the other of land. The water is known to be impregnated throughout with gold, and the banks of the rivers are nothing less than immense gold "bars." Independently of the rivers, the land itself is one gigantic gold-field, to be worked when the rivers shall prove barren. The correspondent of *The Times* writes from Victoria, that—

"Besides the gold found in the beds and on the shores of these streams, the Frazer itself, and many of its tributaries, are skirted or bordered by terraces, all of which yield gold also. These terraces, or "benches," as the miners call them, run, at intervals, along both sides of the rivers for many miles in length; and they recede, where the mountains retire, for distances back into the valleys, varying from a few acres to a few miles in breadth. They are objects of curiosity and speculation, and add much

to the tenacity of the rude scenes in which they occur, from the regularity and evenness of their structure. They generally occur on both sides of the river (opposite to each other) at the same place, sometimes at the same elevations on both sides, sometimes at different elevations—high on this, and low on the other side of the river; and in some places they are multiplied into several successive level parallel plateaus, rising one above the other as they recede from the bank. These terraces are composed of the ordinary alluvial deposits—loam, gravel, stones, sand, and boulders—and they are thick masses, rising generally to a height of 150 to 200 feet.

"Leaving the solution of their formation to the learned in such matters, I will hasten to explain their value to the miner. They contain vast deposits of gold; and, to be worked to advantage, the 'bench diggings' must command a stream of water, supplied from a source higher than their own surfaces, so as to give a fall, to enable the miner to apply the water to the face of the 'bench' by a hose. The force of the stream is due to the height of the fall. A good strong stream playing upon the face of the hill will disintegrate a great quantity of 'pay dirt' in a short time. The floating rubbish, or 'dirt,' is caught in a long sluice at the base, provided with 'riffles' on the bottom, and spread with quicksilver to catch the gold. This mode of mining is called by the miners 'hydraulic mining.' Such is the wealth of Cariboo that no quicksilver was used, for the miner could afford to lose all the 'fine dust,' and to be satisfied with the 'lumps.'

"It happens, fortunately, that Frazer River and most of its tributaries supply water in abundance at an elevation which affords the necessary fall, from the elevated and broken character of the country; while there are inexhaustible supplies in the numerous lakes dispersed all over the upper district. Timber, for the erection of 'dams,' is also abundant everywhere.

"British Columbia is better supplied with water for mining purposes, obtainable both from streams at great elevations, and from lakes situated in high altitudes, than either California or Australia. . . . The canal system of British Columbia will be comparatively inexpensive, from the abundance of water and its eligibility, encouraging facts to the miner, because the small outlay of capital required will keep his 'water dues' low.

"Although now neglected, the 'benches' will be appreciated and come into play when the effluence of gold near the surface shall have been exhausted. When this happens they will supply wealth and a profitable living to a mixed population of miners, ditchowners, traders, and laborers, and that for a long period of time, of which no one can compute the numbers of the one nor the duration of the other."

The 'bench' diggings form but a small portion of auriferous country in the colony, compared with another tract of gold-yielding country that still remains to be worked. This is a range of mountains which run from the southern frontier (on lat. 49, north) in a north-westerly direction through the colony; the mountains in many parts being very lofty. This range runs nearly parallel to the Rocky Mountains, and is named the Snowy, the Bald, and the Peak Mountains from the idea that it is three distinct ranges, and not one connecting chain like the Rocky Mountains. From the United States' territory on the south, these mountains follow in a north-westerly direction (between Frazer River and the Rocky Mountains) through the whole of British Columbia, extending into the Indian territory of Stikkeen, to the east of the Russian possessions on the Pacific, and is the longest stretch of continuous inland gold yielding country yet discovered in the world. Gold has been traced for 400 miles, and fine and coarse gold is everywhere found on the western slopes of the mountains, from Rock Creek in the south to Cariboo in the north; and the richest gold-spot in the colony (Cariboo) is along this very range of mountains! An idea may be formed of the immense extent of auriferous country in this colony from the fact that gold has been found in more or less

quantities in all parts. Another fact leads one to believe that *the greatest gold field in British Columbia—aye, in the world—has yet to be discovered.* It is known that this chain of mountains forms the water-shed of the great basin of the Frazer River, one side of which drains itself into the valley of the Frazer, and the other into that of the Columbia. It is believed that these mountains will give an inexhaustible supply of gold for ages when they come to be efficiently worked by tunnelling, and give employment to thousands of hands.

The following letter has been received from British Columbia. Alluding to the gold discoveries, the writer says:—

"My brother Tom is at Antler, and writes me that Cariboo is far beyond what California was in 1849. I heard of no one making less than £3 a day, and not a few are making from £20 to £100 a day. The people at Antler and other creeks are in a great state of excitement, and prospecting parties are out in all directions. When a party starts out on a voyage of discovery, merchants agree to furnish them food free of charge, provided an interest in the claims when found, is given them. H. Robinson is here. He brings great accounts from Antler, in which he has one of the richest claims. Jim Harris, while looking for gold, got a prospect of a sovereign in one shovelful of dirt. Williams Creek is still the richest among the many rich streams in Cariboo. Steele and Co. have beaten the celebrated Abbott claim, having washed up no less than 227 ounces of gold in one day, three men throwing into sluices. £3,000 has been offered and refused for two interests in this company, the members of which will probably realise £6,000 each, before their claim is worked out. Good bench diggings have also been found on the ground adjoining the cannon plains on Williams Creek. Last Chance Gulch has turned out very good gold, not a claim on it but paid from £4 to £3, while some paid as high as £30 a day. The Van Winkle diggings are also yielding big things. Several lucky individuals have already left for below; among others, Willoughby, from Lowhee Gulch, with £2,500; Paterson, O'Rourke, Miller, Fisher, and Davis, with sums varying from £500 to £1,400 each. Two packers, named Fellows and Way, left this place about eight days ago, with about the sum of £300 in gold. No greater blessing could attend the colony than the arrival of a body of high-principled women. Men well-to-do in the world would then gladly settle down and enjoy the happiness of married life, and hundreds of families would readily give large wages to qualified servants; £50 to £100 a year is now given to help those who are no help for servants who will not serve unless they are permitted to rule, and those ladies who cannot consent to become the slaves of their domestics have the privilege of slaving for themselves. The other day, a lady, finding her servant sitting over the drawing-room fire reading a book, said, "Mary, your room is not done; go and get them ready as soon as you can."—"They ain't done, a'n't they?" was the reply; "then I guess if you want 'em done you must go and do 'em yourself, for I ain't a-going to rise till I have finished this book."—"I verily believe Victoria would be one of the most charming homes in the world were but good servants here. The best of food at reasonable prices, climate very healthy and very delightful, houses to be built at a small cost, money to be lent with advantage to the borrower on the best security—at from twelve to twenty per cent.; a town beautifully situated, commanding scenery unsurpassed in any country, an indefatigable bishop, and a high-minded, faithful clergy. These are great advantages, and if I could only add good servants easily obtained, the picture would be complete. Bachelors can do very well; I have no reason to complain."

A letter appeared in a morning paper in December last, in which the writer asked permission to set before the reader some information he had received from Victoria, Vancouver Island. He had resided, himself, in British Columbia, and believed it would surpass both Australia and California in the richness of its gold fields. "At present the labourers are few, and the gold does not figure in the exports from Victoria, but goes to swell those of California." The information this person received was through a letter, dated "Victoria, October 28th," and of which the following is an extract:—

"I have told you before of the almost fabulous richness of the mines of British Columbia; recent accounts place this beyond a doubt. Many men are making 100 dol., per day, and not a few have picked up 100 mureca in the same space of time. Numbers who left Victoria penniless are now worth from 1,000 to 10,000 dol., the result of one summer's labour. Those who had not luck enough to get good claims of their own, obtained plenty of employment at from 10 dol. to 20 dol. per day. Want is unknown, provisions are plentiful, and hardships are among the things of the past. According to all accounts, the gold must have been taken out by spade-fuls. Think of 100 dol. to the pan—not a fancy, but a reality! Miners think that richer diggings are yet to be discovered. All the metal is coarse, and in small nuggets—say, from 10 to 20 dollar pieces. The largest lump yet found weighs 7lb."

In November last, Victoria was full of rich miners, many of them worth from 15,000 to 20,000 dollars each, and none worth less than 2,000 to 5,000 dollars, and had made these sums at Cariboo during the summer months. Two men were seen with bags containing 60,000 dollars in gold-dust, the produce of their summer's work. A shoemaker made £1,500 in the season, and two fishermen £10,800 between them. Companies of three to six men, working with improved mining apparatus, frequently took out from £100 to £500 worth of gold per day.

Cariboo (unlike California or Australia, where the yield was uncertain) will pay any person richly to work there!



CHAPTER IV.

LIFE AT THE DIGGINGS.

THERE is something so strange always at gold diggings that it requires more than ordinary *litterateur* to describe it. You meet there men of all classes; some of the greatest vagabonds in creation, and the innocent broken-down gentlemen make it no difference to work together, but too generally the latter are the dupes of the former. Let it, therefore be impressed on the minds of those contemplating going to the diggings to avoid having anything to do with men they have no knowledge of, or whose character they know to be bad. This is frequently not looked after till too late, and then the labour of the duped has been in vain,—his partner makes off with the gold, and he is left to fight the battle of life by himself. Such instances were known in Australia, in California, and to this day they are practised in British Columbia.

Another party you will meet at the diggings who are never afraid of such occurrences. They are in partnership the same, but *their* partner is a man of good character,—a man who went there to work with, and not rob, his brother. Parties who succeed like this generally pick up with partners before they leave England, and then they know who they are working with. Instances are known at the diggings of neighbours from the mother country having left together, dug together, and accumulated a fortune together. If the emigrant thinks of going in partnership at the diggings he had better follow this advice, or he may have cause to regret it in time to come.

One cause why diggers generally don't make such fortunes as they expected is because they are too fond of the gaming table. This is a curse to the gold diggers, and it is very painful to notice the amount of gold nuggets or dust that is daily lost

by these means at the diggings in British Columbia. Persons that have been there can testify to this. Some will say "It's all very well to say this, but the diggers don't lose anything themselves." But the diggers do lose their gold in this manner; there are certain parties at the diggings who reap golden fortunes by keeping gaming tables,—they don't do anything else but "accommodate" diggers as they call it. This sort of "accommodation" is a luxury to many of the diggers, but an expensive one. If the digger intends to "stand" it costs him several pounds for a bottle of brandy, and the sort of spirits sold there is not likely to make you drunk very quick. £500 is a reasonable sum for a gambler to spend in drink alone in a year at these diggings, while many expend two or three thousand pounds in the same time. If you go to British Columbia make up your mind to put your back to the gaming table,—discard it from your thoughts,—or you will find it much better to live in England, with her over crowded population.

Another word of advice to the emigrant. Let him be as temperate as he can, for drunkenness is a vice well known to the gold diggings. Where drunkenness is found gambling is sure to follow, so that the digger to abstain from one must abandon the other. Don't let the reader suppose that a glass of brandy will make a digger find the gold faster or in greater quantity, than by taking a cup of water instead.

Many persons go to gold diggings with the intention of making a fortune,—and how many of them leave without accomplishing the object of their desire? And why is it? They do not fail to realize sufficient wealth to enable them to pass the remainder of their days in quiet, but when they get the gold in their pockets they seem to be overburdened with it, and they squander it to waste. To these advice is almost needless.

There is another class who turn away from the workshops or green fields of England to any El Dorado that springs up; and these are the men that generally make the best of it. They go with the intention of making a fortune, likewise; but then there is a great difference between the two. While the former spends to-night what he gained to-day, the latter saves up the result of his hard labour, and thinks a little proud of himself when he can command half-a-dozen ounces of gold of his own. There is certainly a mighty difference in the two.

The man who should go to British Columbia, is the one that

knows how to handle a spade without its galling his heart. He should not be too proud to go partner with a common labourer, if of a good character, for rank makes no difference there. They don't 'Squire' this body and that, and there are no Dukes of Downderry or Lords Topheavy to preside at any public meetings, or to be saluted by their tenants. They all work in British Columbia; even the little children consider it proud to do so,—and this is why our colony has prospered so well. There are some idle hands there; they are called idle because they don't work above a couple of hours a-day, and make it a rule to be drunk the remainder. Every man is his own landlord, and there are no fears of heavy arrears of rent, to either landlord or tenant. This makes a wonderful difference,—it puts a cheerful appearance to every thing connected with the diggings. The man who says "This land I stand on is my own, and this hut that shelters me is my own," is a much happier man than his fellow beings in England, who has his heavy rent to pay at the pleasure of a cruel landlord. So that life at the diggings is more pleasure to the actual labourer than is generally thought or believed in England.

One thing has yet to be mentioned in connection with the gold diggings of this colony, and that is the *scarcity of women*. The emigrant from Europe will be greatly surprised to find himself among a class of individuals that know not the value of "better halves" or to whom the definition of "sweetheart" is as new as to read to them the names of some great Roman orators. And this greatly accounts for the gambling and drunkenness that the diggings are plagued with. If every man, or say every other man, was provided with a wife, or sweetheart, or sister, he would find in their company much greater pleasure than by associating with groups of Californian miners whose policy is to become the dupes of the clever "Jews" of the diggings—those men that keep the gaming tables, and the pipe and glass. Such is the situation of the diggers, and it is not likely to be remedied, for most men turn there to dig their fortunes, and to think of taking women with them,—they consider it as bad as to carry the Pyramids to their backs.

One word of advice to women, especially single, of England. Make up your minds to go to British Columbia for there are chances in that colony of making yourselves happy the rest of your days. If you marry a digger you will not meet with one lower in station than yourself,—for those diggers pave the road

to fortune, and are hard working, industrious men, generally. As before said, there are some "roughs," but the young women must be very unfortunate if she picks out the black sheep from the flock. If you choose to remain single, to enjoy the blessings of being an old maid, you need not fear of keeping your carriage and pair, and living in Piccadilly or Hyde Park Corner on your return to England. Any woman, take her from what quarter you like, from St. Giles to Galway, or from John O'Groats to Land's End,—yes any woman, whether "blind, lame, or comfortless," as the rhyme says, is bound to make her fortune there, if industrious. She can get 12s. per dozen for washing clothes, or half-a-crown for cleaning her master's boots, or if she likes housekeeping better than the washtub or blacking-pot, she will have scores of applicants to engage her at wages half-a-dozen times as high as she was getting in England.

For men there is an open field with no favour. For women there is an open field full of favours. Let the women of England think of this. It is a fact that there is but one woman to every hundred men, or ten to every thousand in British Columbia.

Some will say that it is no place for women at the gold diggings. It is the very place for them to go if they like it, for they would create as much astonishment to the diggers as the visit of a clergyman to the haunts of St. Giles, with the certainty of doing more good. The diggers respect women more than their fellow beings in England,—they consider them their partners in life, not their tools. If they have no desire to go to the diggings,—and they are "great flats" if they don't,—they will find plenty of employment at Victoria in Vancouver Island, or at New Westminster with just as good prospects.

It is commonly said in England that to be a gold digger and a gold finder requires a strong arm and a quick eye. This is a great mistake, for the work is principally done with the spade, and any person who knows how to turn up an onion bed will be able to turn up a gold bed in British Columbia. It is the willing heart, not the muscular arm that does it. As to finding it, why a week's practice will tell you what soil is rich in gold or not, and you will find the nuggets as easy as picking up stones in your schooldays.

CHAPTER V.

ARTICLES INDISPENSABLE TO THE EMIGRANT.

MANY persons will be asking "What are the best things to take to British Columbia?" Well, the answer we shall make is—"Take as little in goods as possible; money will prove of more value to the emigrant than anything else when he shall have arrived there." There are some things that are indispensable to the emigrant on the voyage, such as his outfit.

If the emigrant takes the Cape Horn route, he will have to pass through very hot and very cold weather, and he should be prepared for both. By the Panama route it will be principally in warm climes. A man should provide himself with a warm suit, with a cap to match, and a suit of light clothing. Here is an outfit recommended by the government:

SINGLE MAN'S OUTFIT.

1 heaverteen jacket (warm lined)	1 felt hat
1 ditto waistcoat, with sleeves	1 Brazil straw hat
1 ditto trousers (warm lined)	6 blue-striped cotton shirts
1 duck ditto	1 pair of boots
1 coloured drill jacket	1 pair of shoes
1 ditto trousers	4 handkerchiefs
1 ditto waistcoat	4 pairs worsted hose
1 pilot overcoat or jacket, or,	2 pairs cotton hose
1 waterproof coat	1 pair braces
2 blue serge shirts, or Jersey frocks	4 towels
	Razor, shaving-brush, & glass

SINGLE WOMAN'S OUTFIT

1 warm cloak, with cape	3 caps
2 bonnets	4 handkerchiefs
1 small shawl	2 net ditto, for neck
1 stuff dress	4 nightcaps
2 print ditto	4 sleeping jackets
6 shifts	2 black worsted hose
2 flannel petticoats	4 cotton hose
1 stuff ditto	1 pair of shoes
2 twill cotton ditto	1 pair of boots
1 pair of stays	6 towels

Married couples are also to provide themselves with the above articles.

The following articles are also required by each passenger—

Bedding, &c., for a first-class passenger.

Mattress and pillow
2 blankets
Counterpane
4 pair sheets
6 pillow cases
Cabin lamp
6lbs. India wax candles
Wash-stand and fittings
Looking-glass
Camp stool
Water can
Clothes bag, with lock
Cost, about £4 10s.

For a second-class passenger.

Mattress and pillow
2 blankets
Counterpane
3 pair sheets
4 pillow cases
Cabin lamp
3lbs. India candles
Wash-stand and fittings
Water bottle
2 knives and forks
2 spoons
Hook pot
2 enamelled plates
Enamelled drinking mug
2 cups and saucers
Dust pan and brush
Cost, about £2 15s.

The following cheap outfits are provided by outfitting warehousemen in London and Liverpool, and are well suited for persons going third-class:—

Bedding, &c., for 21s.

Bed and pillow
2 blankets
2 sheets
Counterpane
Hook pot
Water bottle
Wash basin
Metal plate
Drinking mug
Knife and fork
Tea and table spoons

Outfit for 10s. 6d.

Bed
Hook pot
Water bottle
Wash basin
Metal plate
Drinking mug
Knife and fork
Tea and table spoons
2 sheets
Counterpane

For each child 9 shirts or shifts, 4 warm flannel waistcoats, 1 warm cloak or outside coat, 6 pair of stockings, 2 pair of strong shoes, and two complete suits of exterior clothing, are required.

The goods sold in London can be obtained in Victoria at

prices about half as much again, and the emigrant should not be impressed with the idea that the cheapest goods are best for the voyage. He will find a good suit of clothes indispensable at the diggings, and what serves him for the voyage will do for him there. The other articles mentioned in the outfit may be of what quality he can afford to pay for.

A frequent change of under-clothing is indispensable to health and comfort during the voyage, and as little washing can be done on board, a good stock of shirts, stockings, and handkerchiefs should be laid in. Women should be provided with good, serviceable, and not showy clothing.

The shoes in the outfit will be found more comfortable to wear during the voyage than boots, which will be very serviceable when you land.

Emigrants should also provide themselves with the following articles:—2 bars of marine soap, comb and hair-brush, 2 shoe-brushes, 2 pots of blacking, 1 strong chest with lock.

The cost of an outfit for a single man or woman is about £6, for a married couple about £10. The cost of an outfit for children varies with the size. Generally speaking, three children under seven, or two between that age and fourteen, may be clothed for about £7.

Emigrants should divide their baggage into two parts: one intended for *general* use during the voyage, and the other for *occasional* use. The former should be packed in a strong canvas bag, and should contain clothes enough for a fortnight's wear. It must not be more than 1 ft. 10 in. long, 1 ft. 6 in. broad, and 1 ft. 2 in. deep. This bag should be marked in paint, with the name of the passenger, and the words "*Wanted on the Voyage.*" The latter portion should be packed in a strong chest, with the name and destination of the owner, and the words "*Not Wanted on the Voyage*" painted on it. The chest will be safely packed away in the lower part of the ship, and about every fortnight brought up to allow the owner to put in or take out any articles.

All emigrant ships are thoroughly inspected by Government officers prior to their sailing, to see that they are sufficiently provisioned, and that the stores are good and wholesome. Provisions, water, medical attendance and comforts, and suitable accommodation being provided by the ship, the emigrant leaves his native shores well prepared for the voyage. He has only to study his comfort, to fit up his berth to his taste, and he is still happy, conscious that he is leaving the workhouse far

behind, and nearing a lovely country that is waiting for him to give up its precious ore.

Before you go, call on Messrs. Newton, Wilson & Co, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C., and inspect their patent sewing machines. These sewing machines will be found invaluable in the colony, for the cost of labour is so excessively high, that any one with one of these machines will be as likely to make a fortune as if he went gold digging. The machine, complete for £12 12s, is completely enclosed, with all necessary implements, in a work-box form, occupies less than a cubic foot, so that it is perfectly portable, and it requires no fixing.

There is a little article we would recommend the emigrant to provide before he leaves this country. It is sulphate of quinine. This valuable preparation was the means of saving hundreds of lives in California in 1849, when the miners, in their thirst for gold, forgot to take proper care of themselves, and had the fever. In British Columbia similar events are certain to take place, and no medicine will prove as efficacious as the one above mentioned. Half-an-ounce, which costs 6s, will be plenty for one person to take with him, and it should be taken in doses of three grains each whenever the miner feels unwell. It will strengthen him quicker than any other preparation, and at a trifling cost, for half-an-ounce will make about 80 doses. The writer of this knew a miner in California who paid a doctor £1,500 for attendance and medicine while down with the fever.



CHAPTER VI.

ROUTES TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THERE are four ways of getting to British Columbia :

By the West India mail steamer to Colon ; thence, across the Isthmus (48 miles) by railway, to Panama ; and thence by the Pacific line of steamers to Victoria, Vancouver Island.

Via New York to Colon, by steamers ; and thence across the Isthmus and to Victoria, as in the former.

Round Cape Horn, in sailing vessels (steamers occasionally), to Victoria.

To Portland or New York, through the United States or Canada, via the Rocky Mountains, to Frazer River.

THE PANAMA ROUTE

has the advantage over all others in the time the emigrant saves in getting there.

With the view of accommodating the greatly-increased passenger traffic to California and British Columbia, and to ensure a certainty of transit without risk of a long and dangerous detention on the way, Messrs. Wheatley, Starr & Co., 156, Chapside, London, and Messrs. Staveley & Starr, 9, Chapel street, Liverpool, issue "Through Tickets" to San Francisco, by the Royal (West India) Mail Steam Packet Company, the Panama Railroad Company, and the Pacific United States Mail Steam Ship Company, at the following rates of fare :

Southampton to San Francisco—First class, £65, & upwards, according to position of cabin ; second class, £49 ; third class, £35 ; female servants, £10 10s ; male servants, £35.

Children under twelve years half price, under six years quarter price, a single child in arms to each family free.

Large and splendid steamers of great size and power have been placed on the line, by which the length of passage to San Francisco has been reduced to about 35 days. On their arrival at Aspinwall (Colon) passengers with Through Tickets are conveyed across the Isthmus in first class railway carriages in four hours. The steamers leave Southampton on the 2nd and 17th of each month (unless these dates fall on a Sunday, then on the following day), and passengers by them arrive at the Isthmus about nineteen days after leaving England. The steamer leaving Southampton on the 17th of the month offers most advantages to passengers, as she is due at Colon on the 7th of the following month, the date of the departure from Panama being the 9th idem.

Bedding and other necessaries being provided by the steamers, the passengers are saved the expense of outfits. The rations are on the most bounteous scale, and the steamers are perfect floating palaces.

Any person can get to Victoria by this route at from £45 to £50, and in half the time than if he went round Cape Horn.

Steamers run from San Francisco to Victoria about every ten days at present, but probably this summer will see steamers running two or three times a week, so there will be no delay.

Via New York.—Messrs. Eives & Macey, 61, King William street, London, are agents for a line of steamers from Liverpool to San Francisco, via New York, Aspinwall and Panama, at £28 13s.

CAPE HORN ROUTE.

Mr. James Starkey, 7, India Buildings, Liverpool, dispatches some remarkably fine clippers to British Columbia, at very moderate fares. He styles his clippers "*The Cariboo Line*."

Messrs. Wilson & Chamber, 21, Water-street, Liverpool, are about to run some of the famous "*White Star*" liners to Victoria.

Messrs. Lindsey & Co., Austin Friars, London, will dispatch the first steamer by this route, in May.

The "*London Line of Packet Ships*," via Cape Horn, will be found the most convenient route for all to whom economy or comfort on the voyage are of more importance than the saving of a few weeks in the length of passage. The vessels of this line are specially selected with a view to their fast sailing qualities, as well as to the comfortable accommodation of all classes of passengers, and may be confidently expected to complete the voyage in four or five months, landing the emigrant at Victoria, without the probable danger to health, and certain expense attendant upon the changes and frequent delays of the Panama routes. The fares by this line are 50 guineas, 35 guineas, and 25 guineas, for first, second, and third cabin respectively, including a most liberal scale of diet. Applications for passage or further information should be made to the Brokers, Messrs. Filby & Co., 63, Fenchurch street, London, or Mr. Charles Oswald, George Yard, Lombard-street, London.

Cost of going this route, about £35; time, about 5 months.

OVERLAND ROUTE.

When in Canada or United States, via Detroit, Chicago, La Crosse, St. Paul, Pembina and Assiniboine. Danger from Indians, unless with a strong escort. Cost, about £40.

USEFUL "ON DITS."

Provisions in British Columbia are very dear, but in Vancouver Island they are more reasonable than in England, there being no duties on tea, coffee, sugar, spirits, &c. Flour in November last, at Cariboo, was at 38c. (1s. 7d.) per lb.; bacon 75c. (3s. 1½d.); beans, 40c. (1s. 8d.); tea, 1 dollar 50c. (6s. 3d.); sugar and coffee, 76c. per lb. Single meals at the *restaurant's*, consisting of beans and bacon and a cup of bad coffee, cost two dollars (8s. 4d.). A correspondent of one of the newspapers in Victoria, writing from Cariboo at this time, says:—A tin pan (worth 3d.) sold for 8 dollars (£1 12s. 9d.); picks and shovels, 6 dollars each; ditto, with handles, *i.e.*, shovels, 7 dollars 50c. each (£1 4s. 6d. and £1 10s. 6d.). Washing was charged for at 6 dollars a dozen pieces (£1 4s. 6d.)

The rocker is simply a wooden cradle, very much resembling a child's cradle, except that the back rocker is higher than the front one, forming, as intended, an inclined plane at the bottom, across which two or three wooden cleets are nailed a foot apart. Over the head of the cradle is a grating or tin plate perforated with holes, and on this the earth and water is thrown; the cradle being then rocked by a long handle at the side. The water and mud run out at the foot, while the gold lodges on the bottom beneath the cleets. The rockers are constructed of several sizes. Some are small and tended by one man only, who first digs the earth, then carries it to the rocker, and with one hand keeps it rocking, and with the other he pours in water from the stream with a tin pan. Other rockers require three and some four men to keep them continually at work. Generally they allow the gold to remain at the bottom till the close of their day's labour, and then one and all gather close to the machine to see if any gold "shines" there. These rockers being constructed of wood, are very light, easily taken to pieces or repaired, and can be worked on any ground.

As to taking out a cradle from England, the emigrant is advised against it. Cradles are but little cheaper in England than in California, and by the time he arrives at Victoria, he will find plenty of machines for gold digging purposes in that city, brought from San Francisco. Why, the carriage of such an article would make more than the difference in the price, and then the emigrant has all the trouble of looking after it on the voyage. The cradles made in California are of the most modern inventions.



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THIRD CABIN - - 25 Guineas, ditto.

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For Freight or Passage apply to Messrs. HENDERSON & BURNABY, 17, Gracechurch Street, to Messrs. JAMES THOMSON & CO., Billiter Court, E.C.; to CHARLES OSWALD, 13, George Yard, Lombard Street, E.C.; or to FILBY & CO., 63, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

The CYCLONE will be followed at short intervals by equally fine Passenger Ships.

The Route by Cape Horn is the cheapest and most comfortable. Once on board the Vessel there is no further trouble or expense until landed at Victoria; thus the delay that often takes place at New York, Panama, and San Francisco, and heavy expense consequent thereupon, which all who go by way of Panama are subject to, is avoided; and the Passenger, having paid his Passage Money, knows the extent of his liability.

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