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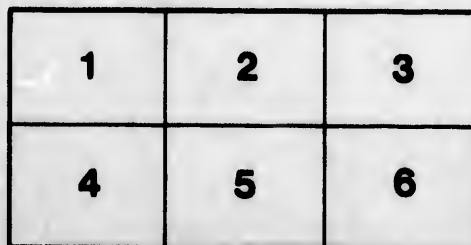
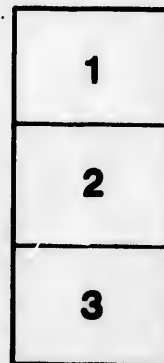
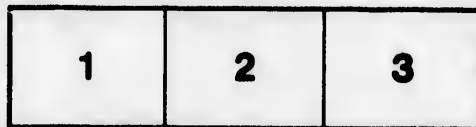
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## RE-PUBLICATION

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THE

# WESTMINSTER REVIEW.

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was continued until the year 1825, when the celebrated lion Nero was baited at Warwick, when a bulldog named Turk exhibited an amount of pluck and courage which led even the brutal spectators to cry out "shame," and insist upon his being taken from the lion. The bulldog indeed may be looked upon as a peculiarly English dog, and perhaps as the most courageous of all animals. There would seem to be nothing which he can by any possibility interpret into an enemy, upon which he will not fly, and any infusion of bull-blood into another strain communicates a pertinacity in following out its particular instincts which is not attained by other dogs of the same kind. The true bulldog, therefore, must be looked upon as a reservoir of staunchness, but the breed has considerably degenerated of late years. This, however, the sportsman must endure with patience, for it is certainly better that our breeds of dogs should suffer a little deterioration than that the public mind should be debased by such exhibitions as occurred in the bull-ring and the dog-pit.

In the preceding pages we have been able to do but little comparatively towards giving the reader even a taste of the great store of curious information laid up by Mr. Jesse in the volumes before us. They suffer, undoubtedly, as the author seems to have felt, by the very imperfect manner in which they are arranged and lacked together, and must be regarded rather as a magazine from which future writers may draw much valuable material, than a treatise on the British dog. The illustrations, from the author's own pencil, are generally of a more or less humorous character. Some of them are good, others very indifferent.

#### ART. VII. OUR NORTH-PACIFIC COLONIES.

1. *Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Where they are; What they are; and What they may become.* By ALEXANDER RATTRAY, M.D., R.N. Smith, Elder & Co. 1862.
2. *British Columbia and Vancouver Island.* By D. G. F. MACDONALD, C.E., F.R.G.S., &c. Longmans. 1863.
3. *Travels in British Columbia, with the Description of a Yacht Voyage round Vancouver Island.* By Capt. C. E. BARRETT-LENNARD. Hurst and Blackett. 1862.
4. *Four Years in British Columbia and Vancouver Island.* By Commander R. C. MAYNE, R.N., F.R.G.S. John Murray. 1862.
5. *Facts and Figures relating to Vancouver Island and British Columbia.* By J. DESPARD PEMBERTON, Surveyor General, V.I. Longmans. 1860.
6. *Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Their History, Resources, and Prospects.* By MATTHEW MACFIE, F.R.G.S. Longmans. 1865.

7. *Prize Essay.—Vancouver Island. Its Resources and Capabilities as a Colony.* By CHARLES FORBES, Esq., M.D., R.N. Published by the Colonial Government. 1862.
8. *British Columbia. An Essay.* By Rev. R. C. LUNDIN BROWN, M.A. New Westminster. 1863.
9. *Blue Books relating to Vancouver Island and British Columbia.* Parts I, II, III, IV. 1860-64.
10. "*British Colonist*," and "*Victoria Chronicle*." 1859-66.

VANCOUVER Island and British Columbia, till within the last eight years, were regarded by the mass of Englishmen as a *terra incognita*, embracing a region of the globe wretchedly inhospitable and hopelessly given over to sanguinary encounters between savages and beasts of prey, having no claim to be improved by industry, or visited with the benefits of civilization. Considering the difficulty of access to these colonies, compared with our thriving dependencies in the South Pacific, the very limited knowledge possessed in this country of their topography and resources, and the conflicting statements that have appeared in books and newspapers respecting their adaptability for commercial, mining, and agricultural enterprise, it is not surprising that the most diligent efforts to reach a satisfactory conclusion as to their condition and prospects should have often ended in perplexity and disappointment. Lucky emigrants who make "rich strikes," looking at their adopted home wholly through the sunshine of their prosperity, extol it as an *Elysium*. The unsuccessful, on the other hand, wincing under "the stings and arrows of outrageous fortune," rush into print to cool their indignation, and execrate the country as a *Sahara*. The facts now to be submitted may possibly help to unravel this tangled skein of contradictions, and show the truth to be midway between the opposite exaggerations referred to.

Vancouver Island is situated in the latitude of Great Britain, and sustains to the Continent of North America, in the Pacific, a geographical relation similar to that which the parent country sustains to the Continent of Europe in the Atlantic. It is 240 miles long, by from 40 to 70 broad. Entering the Straits of Fuca, on a clear day the spectacle is peculiarly lovely. The Olympian range of mountains in Washington territory lift their rugged summits, capped with eternal snows; and beyond the rocky shore of the island, there stretches a mountain chain in a north-easterly direction, serving as a backbone to this colony. These heights are covered with thick vegetation, and the surface of the country is generally of an undulating character, containing lakes, rivers, inlets, forests, and prairies, in every variety. Masses of metamorphic, trappean, and sandstone rocks, fringed with lofty pines, crop out along the coast, and often in the interior. The Gulf of Georgia, between Vancouver and the mainland, is studded with islands from the size of a flower-pot upwards, presenting a scene rivalling



in beauty the celebrated "lake of a thousand islands," near the entrance of Lake Ontario.

The coast line of British Columbia measures 450 miles, and the breadth of that colony is from 350 to 400 miles, or about the size of France. Like the sister colony, its seaboard is broken up by numerous inlets of great extent. The geology and physical geography of British Columbia derive their character primarily from the presence of the Rocky Mountains. This great chain, running from north-west to south-east, forms the axis of elevation of the Western Coast of America. It is of volcanic formation, and is subject to eruptive forces, to which the craters of three neighbouring volcanoes answer as safety-valves. Granite and trappean ridges extend in different directions, and terminate in peaks varying from 1000 to 10,000 feet high, timbered half way up to their tops. Some of the mining regions form spurs of the Rocky Mountains, and are generally so strangely contorted and erupted, as to be represented as a tumbled sea of mountains.

The insular position of Vancouver Island, and the China current (which exerts an influence corresponding to the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic), with other causes, combine to secure for it a climate singularly equable and exempt from the more rigorous extremes to which British Columbia is subject. From October to March frequent rains fall in the island, alternating with lengthened intervals of bright dry weather. Showers are rare during summer, and when they do fall are obliging enough to come at night, when no one is inconvenienced by their descent. But the limited fall of rain in this season is abundantly compensated by heavy dews, which cause the warmest days to be followed by cool nights.

The growth of vegetation is rapid, and reaches its annual maturity at the end of June. There is no naval station at which the crews of her Majesty's ships are so little liable to disease from circumstances of climate, and none where mortality is so light, as Esquimaux in Vancouver Island. British Columbia presents every shade and variety of temperature. Certain belts of country are warm and dry, while others are moist; the character of the climate, in fact, being much determined by altitude.

Previous to 1858 these colonies were held by the Hudson's Bay Company, under lease from the Crown; and the white inhabitants, a few hundred in number, were chiefly employed by the Company in fur-trapping, or stationed at the Indian trading posts. For a dozen years extensive and valuable coal beds in the island had been worked by the company; vast forests of timber had been discovered; some of the baser metals were also known to exist; and in addition to these elements of wealth the capacious harbours of Victoria and Esquimaux, in the south of the island, foreshadowed a bright commercial future for the colony. But for the discovery of gold, however, Vancouver Island might have "dragged its slow length along" at an imperceptible rate for many years. In 1857 a party of Canadians, impelled by vague rumours as to the existence of gold in British Columbia, started from Fort Colville,

near the American boundary; and, "prospecting" on the banks of the Thompson and Bonaparte rivers on their way to the Fraser, were sufficiently encouraged in this experiment to devote themselves to the occupation of "digging." Intelligence of their success soon spread through Washington territory and California; and between March and June in 1858 steamers from San Francisco, crowded with gold-seekers, arrived every two or three days at Victoria. This place, till then a quiet hamlet whose shipping had comprised only Indian canoes and the annual arrival of the Company's ship from England, was instantly converted by the golden spell into a scene of bustle and excitement. In the brief space of four months 20,000 adventurers poured into the harbour. The easy-going primitive settlers were overwhelmed by this invasion of foreigners. Individuals of every trade and profession in the neighbouring American States, under the influence of what was called "the yellow fever," threw up their employments and in many cases sold their property at an immense sacrifice, and repaired to the new Dorado. This motley throng included those scouts of civilization, gamblers, "loafers," thieves, and ruffians, with others of a more respectable stamp. The rich came to speculate, and the poor in the hope of vaulting into sudden wealth. Every sort of property in California fell to a degree that threatened the ruin of the State. The limited stock of provisions in Victoria was speedily exhausted. Twice the bakers ran short of bread. Innumerable tents covered the locality in and around the town, far as the eye could reach. The sound of hammer and axe was heard everywhere. Shops, stores, and "shanties," to the number of 225, sprang up in six weeks. Investment in town allotments attained an extravagant pitch. The land office was besieged, often before sunrise, by the multitude eager to buy building land; and the demand so increased that sales had to be suspended in order to allow the Government surveyor time to measure off new divisions of land. Allotments bought at from 10% to 15%, were re-sold within a month at sums varying from 300% to 600%; and sections twenty feet by sixty in the central thoroughfare, fetched a rental of from 50% to 100% per month. The majority, consisting of Micawbers, brokers, merchants, and French cooks, finding that they were yet some hundreds of miles from the "diggings," remained in Victoria, anxiously watching the turn of the real estate market, which was the barometer of their hopes. But several thousands, undaunted by the hardships inevitable to crossing the Gulf and ascending the river, proceeded to the source of the gold. The difficulties to be surmounted in extracting gold from the "benches" and "bars" of the river never entered into the calculations of the unheroic spirits that tarried at the scene of land speculation; and as shipments did not come down fast enough to satisfy their wishes, most of them shook the dust off their feet on the country, heaped curses on everything English, and placed the reported discovery of gold in the same category with the "South Sea bubble." A check was thus given

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to immigration, and a reaction in the price of land followed. But hundreds of indomitable fellows, soberly viewing as unavoidable the hindrances incident to locomotion in a wilderness previously untrudged for the most part by white men, pushed their way into the interior of British Columbia, animated by the expectation of their toils being ere long amply rewarded. Not a few were obliged to creep for many miles through underwood and thicket, with a bag of flour on their backs; struggle by turns under and over huge trunks of fallen trees, scramble up precipices, slide down masses of projecting rock, and waded up to the waist in swamps. For weeks together some did not taste flour or salt, but had to appease hunger with a meal of horse-flesh, salmon, or wild berries.

At length ocular demonstration of the richness of the mines appeared in the arrival of considerable quantities of gold-dust. In spite of the fearful difficulties that resisted mining progress, the yield during the first six months was much larger in proportion to the number of hands at work, than it had been in the same time and at a similar stage of development, in California and Australia. The gold product of California in the first six months of mining operations in 1849 was 46,000£. All the gold brought to Melbourne in 1851 amounted in value to about 333,200£, while the mines of New South Wales gave for the first six months of their existence about 144,600£. But in four months, from the end of June, 1858, when the mines of British Columbia were opened by a mere handful of actually working miners, to the end of October, the value realized in gold was 141,000£. Yet this was taken almost entirely from the beds of a few rivers. Other parts of the country have since been successfully explored, the richest districts being Cariboo in the north, and Similkameen, Kootanie, and Big Bend in the south. A space eighty feet square, in the first named of these districts, yielded in a few months 24,000£. From a second "claim" 1300£ was extracted in a day. Several partners in a third netted 1400£ to their individual share in less than half a year. In another instance—exceptional, of course—103 lbs. of gold was taken from a mine in a day. Between October, 1862, and January, 1863, three claims previously "unprospected" yielded 60,000£, each claim measuring 100 square feet. The gross yield of gold in the country for 1864 to two or three thousand miners, working with the rudest appliances, is given at about 560,000£.

A vast concourse of miners has flocked this year to the Big Bend "diggings," where fabulous returns are said to be obtained. Excellent roads to the auriferous centres have been formed, lines of steamers have been established on the great lakes of the interior, and the leading towns throughout the colony have been connected by telegraph with the United States; and are now, by the Atlantic cable, in communication with England.

The gold-bearing range in British Columbia is a continuation of the Sierra Nevada, which constitutes the chief source of the wealth of

California; and by an effective application of capital and labor, there is nothing to prevent this part of our colonial empire becoming one of the most profitable fields for mining enterprise in the world. The population hitherto has been so sparse and migratory, that the country remains comparatively unexplored. But each successive year brings to light discoveries of the precious metal offering inducements for *placer* or surface diggings that cannot be surpassed in the northern or southern hemisphere; and when the colony is ripe for the introduction of machinery for quartz-crushing, steady and remunerative employment may be afforded to scores of thousands.

As many of our readers may be unacquainted with the process of mining adopted in the North Pacific, the principal methods in use will now be rapidly sketched for their information. The metallic sand, which contains the gold, is first sought; and the peculiar quality of earth in which the amalgam is found is known as the "colour." While engaged in the pursuit of this indication of the presence of gold, the miner is "prospecting." The requisites for this task are a "pan," and some quicksilver. When the miner comes to a spot on the bank of a river which he thinks to be auriferous, he proceeds to test the value of the "dirt" in the following manner:—Having filled the pan with earth, he gently dips it in the stream, and by the assistance of a rotary motion which he gives to its contents, loosened by the introduction of water, the black sand, with pebbles, is precipitated to the bottom. The lighter earth is allowed to pass over the edge of the pan, and after all has been removed except the sand and any specks of gold that may be in combination with it, the pan is placed by a fire, or in the sun, to dry; the lighter particles of sand are then blown away, and if the gold be very fine, it is amalgamated with quicksilver. By thus ascertaining the value of the remaining particles of gold-dust, skilful "prospectors" conclude whether the ground would *pay* to work. In this rough method of searching for gold, the superior specific gravity of that metal over every other, except platinum, is the basis of operation—auriferous particles on this principle settling at the bottom.

The readiest and most primitive contrivance for washing gold is the "rocker," which is still used by Chinamen and a few white men on the banks of the Fraser. The "rocker" is constructed like a child's cradle, with rockers underneath; this box is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 feet long, about 2 feet wide and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep; the upper part, and one end, are open, and the sides gradually slope towards the bottom; at the head is a section closely jointed, with a sheet-iron bottom, perforated so as to admit of small stones passing through; along the bottom of the rocker, "riffles" or strips of wood are arranged after the manner of a Venetian blind, to arrest the gold. This apparatus placed on the margin of a river, the upper box is fed by one miner with earth, and by another is rocked and supplied with water. The gold and pebbles passing down to the bottom, the water carries

away the latter and the riffles detain the former. In case the gold is very fine, part of a blanket is laid along the under box, covered with quicksilver, to attract the gold-dust. By this simple agency from 12. to 102. per day and upwards, to the hand, has been realised. In a rocker, from 8 to 10 lbs. of quicksilver is employed daily; but after the gold has been retorted from it, the same quicksilver may be applied several times over.

The next method—and one which prevails most in these colonies—is *sluicing*. This mode of mining can be conducted on any scale, and in connexion with the labour of an indefinite number of men. It is almost invariably found in conjunction with a system of “flumes,” or wooden aqueducts of various extent, running parallel with the claims on a “creek” or river. To separate the earth from the gold that is mixed with it, it is necessary that each sluice should be supplied with a fall of water, and if the stream contiguous to the mine run on too low a level to supply this want, miners—as has been already stated—are often compelled to go considerable distances in quest of water sufficiently elevated to afford the object desired. Flumes are thus brought into requisition, and by openings made in that side of them opposite the mine, water is admitted to the sluice, which is placed at such an angle that the water may have force enough to carry off the earth while leaving the gold behind. Sluice-boxes are of various sizes, and are fitted closely together, so as to form a strongly-built and extended trough. The fall of the water in the sluice-box is adjusted to allow time for the riffles and quicksilver to arrest the gold as it passes; and the supply from the flume is regulated by a slide in the opening on the side of it. The bottom of each sluice is usually intersected with strips of wood, and in the interstices of this grating quicksilver is spread, to intercept the fine gold in its descent, nuggets and grains of coarse gold being caught by the grating itself. The sluice is supported upon trestles, so as to raise or lower it to the level convenient for shovelling in the earth. Several miners throw in dirt on either side, and others assist in loosening the heap and removing large stones, so that gold may be easily precipitated.

“Ground sluicing” is now a very general, as it is a very effective method of getting at the “pay dirt.” When a section of the ancient bed of a stream was alighted upon in which the presence of gold is indicated, but over which a layer of barren earth had collected, the old plan was to sink a perpendicular shaft, or make an opening horizontally from the present river bank; but now, by ground-slauicing, a strong jet of water is turned upon the bank; the top dirt is thus removed, and with the help of picks and shovels the old channel of the river is soon laid bare. The force of the water carries off the *débris*, and the gold, by its own gravity, falls close to the hand of the miner, who washes it by the regular methods. Space forbids details of the process of mining by *tunnelling*, the *hydraulic* principle, and *quartz-milling*.

It is well known that the occupation of mining everywhere is a lottery in which *blanks* are

the rule and *prizes* the exception; and it is not wonderful that so many pioneer emigrants in British Columbia and Vancouver Island—in some instances from causes that might have been avoided, but more frequently from contingencies beyond their control—have been ruined by the experiment. But in addition to the testimony of several among the writers whose works stand at the head of this article, we have the personal authority of the most trustworthy and skilful Columbian miners in support of the opinion, that if steam-power were introduced to master the water that is ever rising in the shafts, the yield of the miner would soon be increased twentyfold. Many places have been examined in which it has been unmistakeably proved that immense fortunes are imbedded. Yet, after toiling season by season, and spending their all in attempts to reach the bed-rock, or having reached it to take out gold, many companies of miners have been compelled to beat a retreat before this hostile element, which their imperfect machinery is inadequate to subdue. There is not enough capital in the colony at present to cope with this difficulty, and British capitalists have not a sufficiently accurate knowledge of the resources of the country to tempt them into investments at so great a distance. But if a few substantial companies could be formed in England, and send out steam appliances, under the direction of responsible managers, we have no hesitation in believing that the enterprise would be found highly profitable, and the colony receive from it an impulse that would start it in a career of steady and hopeful progress.

Over-speculation in land and trading has brought temporary commercial distress upon the port of Victoria; but its commanding geographical position, the varied and exhaustless resources by which it is surrounded, its convenience for receiving and distributing European merchandise to foreign countries on the coast, and its proximity to the naval station for our Pacific Squadron, combine to inspire the hope that it will soon emerge from the cloud that at present hangs over it. All who have had opportunities of observing the growth of trade in the great Western Ocean are agreed that commercial intercourse must eventually be developed between Asiatic ports and those of North-West America as extensive as that which is now carried on between Europe and the Atlantic States. Exports of timber and flour from Oregon, California, and Vancouver Island to China, and return cargoes of tea, rice, silk, and preserves, are rapidly on the increase, and the following able remarks of a leading American journal illustrate American sentiment in regard to the prospects of Victoria as a probable rival of San Francisco in the future struggle for commercial supremacy on the Pacific shores of America:—

“That England has great purposes to effect in this part of the world is no doubt true; that she has grand prospects on foot, looking to a union of her North-American Colonies, and the opening of a highway from ocean to ocean, she does not seek to disguise. That these new settlements [Vancouver Island and British Columbia] are yet to become

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competitors for the trade of the East, if not the com-  
mercial supremacy of the Pacific, it were useless to  
deny. Entrepôts are soon to spring up on these  
hitherto undisturbed waters; there will be shipyards  
and fisheries, and to these lands will a numerous  
people go to dwell and to mine beyond a peradven-  
ture. . . . But however we may regard the ad-  
vance of England upon our shores, or whatever esti-  
mate we may set on the value of her possessions in  
this quarter, one thing is certain—we have now got  
to meet her on this side the globe as we have met  
her on the other, and encountering her enterprise and  
capital, her practical, patient industry, and persist-  
ence of purpose, dispute with her for the trade of  
the East and the empire of the seas."

The imports of the infant "London of the  
Pacific" for 1865 amounted to 3,000,000 dollars.  
It already numbers five thousand inhab-  
itants, and contains many substantial buildings  
—warehouses, shops, hotels, churches, hospi-  
tals, schools, public offices, and private resi-  
dences. It also supports two daily papers, and  
is well supplied with gas and water.

Besides gold, which is found in increasing  
quantities in the island as well as on the main-  
land, large coal seams are being developed; and  
a new company, engaged in working this arti-  
cle, exported last year from their mines at Na-  
naimo 32,818 tons, chiefly for foreign consump-  
tion. Copper, silver, lead, and other ores exist  
in both colonies in abundance.

Of the many varieties of wood with which the  
country is stocked, the Douglas pine (*Abies  
Douglasii*) is the most extensive and of most  
economic value. Sections cut from a tree of  
this description, 309 feet long, were sent to the  
International Exhibition of 1862. The bark  
for some distance from the base of the trunk is  
often a foot thick. In all the qualities essen-  
tial for spars, this sort of timber is pronounced  
unrivalled. Sawmills have been erected for  
supplying masts to the dockyards of European  
Governments. Planks are also shipped for  
building purposes to countries in all parts of  
the Pacific, and one firm exports upwards of  
15,000,000 feet of timber annually.

The bays and streams teem with fish—sal-  
mon in particular being incredibly abundant,  
and at certain seasons the *cañons* or gorges of  
the rivers are densely crowded with them. The  
Indians, who live chiefly on salmon in winter,  
catch them with a pole, attached to the end of  
which is a cross piece of wood; in this they  
stick tenpenny nails, and harpoon the fish in  
the rapids, impaling one or two at every descent  
of the pole. Trout are found from four to six  
pounds in weight, and sturgeon which often at-  
tain 500 lbs. and upwards. From a female  
sturgeon, killed in the Fraser a few years since,  
a bushel of *caviare* was taken. Halibut are  
caught in large numbers, and of enormous size,  
so that a vessel of 600 tons may sometimes be  
loaded with them in forty-eight hours' fishing.  
The catching of cod, too, has begun in earnest,  
and with great success. A kind of smelt, called  
by the natives *hoolakan*, is caught by them in  
immense quantities, and utilized for the pro-  
duction of oil. From the degree of oleaginous  
matter contained in the *hoolakan*, they are in  
very general use among the Hydah tribes as  
candles, being lit at the tail.

The country cannot boast the agricultural  
capabilities of the Western States of the Union,  
though there are broad tracts of meadow land  
in every direction well adapted for the growth  
of esculent roots and cereals. Turnips have  
been cultivated weighing 20 lbs., cabbages 15  
lbs., beetroots 11 lbs., and potatoes 2½ lbs.  
each; but these specimens are not adduced as  
showing the *average* productiveness of the soil.  
Melons of prodigious bulk and excellent flavour  
grow in the open air, and apples, pears, &c.,  
ripen to perfection. The superior quality of  
the pasture lands in British Columbia is proved  
by the thriving condition of the sheep and cat-  
tle grazing upon them. Farming is as yet fol-  
lowed to so small an extent that most of the  
produce consumed in the colonies is brought  
from neighbouring American States, and as  
prices rule high, the inducements offered to the  
settlement of hard-working farmers are tempt-  
ing; 160 acres of unoccupied land is allowed to  
each *bond fide* settler, and when the Govern-  
ment survey shall have extended to the portion  
selected, payment at the low rate of 4s. 2d. per  
acre is called for in four yearly instalments.  
Military and naval officers of seven years'  
standing and upwards are entitled to free grants  
ranging from 200 to 600 acres, according to  
their rank and term of service.

Without attempting to enumerate all the  
species of indigenous wild animals, those may  
be named which are of special interest to the  
sportsman. Bears, racoons, martens, minks,  
otters, and foxes are not uncommon. The  
puma or catamount prowls in the vicinity of  
flocks, is exceedingly destructive to sheep and  
hogs, and is more than a match for any other  
animal in North America. The beaver is  
trapped by the Hudson's Bay Company. The  
stag and elk abound, and some have been shot  
equal to a small horse in stature, and weighing  
600 lbs. Deer are found in large numbers, and  
generally are very tame. The mountain sheep  
is known close to the Rocky Mountains, and  
when full grown weighs several hundred  
pounds. It is covered with long, coarse, woolly  
hair, and provided with enormous crooked  
horns.\*

For the last two years the Government of  
Vancouver Island and British Columbia has  
been administered by two separate bodies of  
officials. But as this double staff was felt by  
the mass of the settlers to be out of proportion  
to colonial wants, and to entail a more burden-  
some taxation than was agreeable, they me-  
morialized the Crown to frame a new Con-  
stitution, and unite the colonies under one  
Governor; and the passing of a bill in accord-  
ance with the wishes of the colonists was among  
the first acts of the Derby Cabinet. These de-  
pendencies are not yet deemed strong enough  
to be entrusted with what in Canada and Aus-  
tralia is technically called "responsible govern-  
ment." In other words, there is no ministry,  
the sole minister of state being the Governor.  
He is assisted in the direction of public affairs

\* An elaborate work on the natural history of  
these colonies, by Mr. Lord, naturalist to the late  
Boundary Commission, has just been published.

by a Legislative Council, one half of which is elective and the other half nominated by himself as her Majesty's representative. It is now resolved that Victoria shall cease to be a political centre, and that New Westminster, near the mouth of the Fraser River, shall henceforth be the seat of Government. The island ports have up to the present been free from all fiscal restrictions, the revenue of Vancouver being derived from a tax of 1 per cent. assessed upon the market value of real property, and a trading license levied upon the principle of a sliding scale. The income of the sister colony depends chiefly on an import tariff; but it is expected, when the basis of the union about to take effect is fully adjusted, that customs duties will extend to Vancouver, and become equalized in both colonies.

Colonial society in North-West America is necessarily of a mixed description, and comprises representatives of nearly every nationality under heaven. We have counted up at least thirty-five crosses in different degrees certain to result from heterogeneous unions of the Caucasian, Mongolian, Indian, Malay, and Negro in that part of the world. What will be the effect on posterity of this commingling of races, so varied in physiological, psychological, moral, religious, and political aspects? We know that circumstances of climate, scenery, race, and natural production determine the specific mould in which the thought and life of peoples ancient and modern have been cast. What then will be the *resultant* of the manifold and unequal forces operating in the formation of distinctive national characteristics on the British North American Coast of the Pacific? Does the presence so largely of inferior races forbode the tainting of the young nation's blood, or will the vitality of the governing race triumph over the combination with which more primitive types threaten it? This inquiry is being hotly pursued by ethnological theorists in the North Pacific. There are 45,000 Chinese on these shores, and their numbers are ever increasing with the improvement of their prospects. It is argued by many that to the Caucasian race has been assigned intellectual and moral supremacy over the rest of mankind; that in proportion as inferior races in considerable numbers mix with the superior race, must its degeneracy be hastened; that as under Ghengis Khan and his successors the Kirghis and Calmucs from the North of China were hurled upon Russia in the twelfth century, so hordes of Asiatics, attracted by the gold of California and British Columbia, may, in course of time, come over in overpowering numbers and blast these new lands, not with war, but with the physical and moral deterioration supposed to be attendant on their commerce. This apprehension—whether founded or not—is shared by leading minds in California, and the civil disabilities imposed by the State Legislature some years ago to check Chinese immigration, are justified by them in consequence. It is the same dread of amalgamation with the negro that is the root of the prejudice against him. It is maintained that by intermarrying with the descendants of Europeans we repro-

duce our own Caucasian type, while by sanctioning matrimonial alliances with the other races referred to we create debased hybrids; that the primary law of nature is self-preservation, and that such protective enactments as have been adopted are essential to the well-being of the country. In these colonies, however, the coloured races are as yet eligible with white foreigners for naturalization; but even on the British side of the boundary there is a disposition to look coldly on the immigration of "celestials." It must be acknowledged, to their credit, that on the North-West Coast of America an unemployed Chinaman is seldom to be seen, and a more industrious and law-keeping class does not reside in the country, notwithstanding that in their domestic and social habits there is room for improvement, especially in respect to cleanliness. They are, for the most part, Cantonese of the lower order, and imported by Chinese Companies established on the coast. San Francisco is their central depot, whence they are distributed over adjacent British and American territory. The proper character of these associations, which form a marked feature of Chinese social life out of their own country, is something between a club and a *benefit* society. They were originally composed of persons from the same or some neighbouring district in a given province. Membership is in no way compulsory, but it has so many advantages that there are not a thousand Chinamen on the coast who are not connected with one or other of these companies. They have large houses for the reception of immigrants, in which the sick and indigent find temporary shelter and attendance, with the means of cooking. But those without funds must procure food from private benevolence. Agents are appointed by the company to find employment for new-comers, whose first savings are religiously sent home for the support of needy relatives. Nothing seems more odd to a European visiting one of these complex establishments—which include a theatre and a temple—than to find all the apparatus of a Buddhist ritual set up in the heart of a Christian community. As it is thought discreditable for the women of China to leave their own country, it may readily be imagined to what class the few belong who have found their way to America. Bonds are given to the Government of China, for the return, dead or alive, of every native that emigrates from the "Flowery Land;" and this obligation is sacredly kept. After death the corpse is left in foreign soil till considerably wasted by decomposition; it is then exhumed, and the flesh separated. When a large number of skeletons have accumulated, each of them is, we believe, duly labelled with the name and address of the deceased, and shipped to China, where it is claimed and decently buried.

There is a considerable muster of negroes in these colonies, who sought refuge from the social and civil oppression to which they were subjected in California, before the rush of immigration to Fraser River; and through the advanced value of the property they bought for a trifle, these worthy blacks soon took rank among the wealthier citizens. Nor did they

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out." The slang in vogue in the mining districts is as expressive as it is original; "guessing," and "calculating" are exercises of perpetual occurrence. If one has the best of a bargain, he is said to have got "the dead wood" on the other party in the transaction. A mean and greedy man is "on the make;" where a claim is to be disposed of, the proprietor is "on the sell;" if he be hard up, he wants to "make a raise;" and if he be tricky—looking two ways at once—he is "on the fence." A conceited man thinks himself "some pumpkins," and when any statement is made, the truth of which is doubted, it is a "tall story." When a "claim" disappoints the hopes of the proprietors, it has "fizzled out." Credit is "jawbone," or as it is otherwise expressed, "shooting off the face." Deceit in business is "shananigan." When one has run off to elude his creditors, he has "vamoosed the ranch." British Columbia, from its extremely western position, is called "the jumping off place." The issue that seems likely to arise from a given course of events is "sticking out." Two parties playing into each other's hands for their mutual advantage are "log-rolling."

It may be imagined that in a country where so many are governed by impulse, and often rendered desperate by losses in speculation, cases of highway robbery and murder should sometimes occur. But the proportion of crime at present is decidedly small, considering the character and number of the population.

In this brief review of the colonies it is not intended to urge at so early a period of their existence, the *indiscriminate* emigration of either capitalists or artisans. Men of bold heart and strong nerve will carve their way anywhere, through difficulties that might appear insurmountable to persons less distinguished for *stamina*. But those destitute of indomitable energy and patience, especially if their exchequer be limited, are counselled to seek their fortune in an older and less exciting sphere. But there can be no doubt that the country offers powerful inducements to farmers, agricultural labourers, and female servants. Wages range four or five times higher than in England. Army and Navy officers and other gentlemen having a few thousand pounds at command, would find life there peculiarly enjoyable. Interest at the rate of one and a half and two per cent. *per month* may easily be obtained for loans on fair security. Most of the conveniences and even the luxuries of the parent country are to be had without difficulty. The climate is highly invigorating, especially to constitutions debilitated by residence in tropical latitudes; the scenery is exceedingly beautiful, and there is no lack of pleasant society.

#### ART. VIII.—THE FOREST OF FONTAINEBLEAU.

1. *L'Indicateur de Fontainebleau. Visite du Palais et de la Forêt.* Par C. F. DENECOURT. Fontainebleau.

2. *L'Indicateur Historique et Descriptif de Fontainebleau, son Palais, sa Forêt, et ses Environs.* Par C. F. DENECOURT. Fontainebleau.

3. *Le Palais et la Forêt de Fontainebleau. Guide Historique et Descriptif, suivi d'un aperçu d'Histoire Naturelle de la Forêt.* Par C. F. DENECOURT. Fontainebleau.

4. *Complément des Guides de Fontainebleau.* Par C. F. DENECOURT. Fontainebleau.

AMONGST the minor differences between the English and French character, none is better marked than the way in which each shows its love of Nature. The home-keeping quality of the French mind, and the English spirit of adventure, are amongst the great distinctions between the two nations. And this last has affected not only their destinies, but the destiny of the world. The results of English colonization are everywhere felt. In India and Australia, and the gigantic Republic of the West, English habits of thought, English love of freedom, English speech, are dominant. Of this we are not going to speak, but of that love of scenery, which is a minor form of that spirit of adventure. No two people travel with such different ideas. To the English, travelling is a pastime, to the French a labour. An Englishwoman takes a portmanteau with her, a Frenchwoman a wardrobe. An Englishwoman travels to see, a Frenchwoman to be seen. So with the men. A Frenchman puts on his best clothes for an excursion in the country, an Englishman his worst. With the former the dress makes the pedestrian. And a Panama hat on the head is supposed to add strength to the feet.

And each, too, looks on nature with very different eyes. The French garden and the English garden well represent the difference. A pair of compasses is the Frenchman's gardener. By the help of the shears he has developed a series of cabbage-headed shrubs, and a species of vegetable mop. He shaves the tops of his poplars as he does the tails of his poodles. He clips his limes into arbores. For a pole covered with flags is his idea of a tree. Everything, too, must be uniform. And so he puts fig-leaves on nature to cover such indecencies as rocks and thickets. What an English garden is, let the reader turn to Milton's description of Paradise. Here is—

"not nice art  
In beds and curious knots, but Nature boon  
Poured forth profuse on hill and dale and plain."

So also in life. The Frenchwoman prefers the smell of pastiles, the Englishwoman the scent of fir-woods after rain. The Frenchman loves his ice in the *café*, the Englishman his glacier on the Matterhorn.

We do not deny that there are great exceptions. We have seen people in England stare at a fine tree, as if it were a kind of wild beast. Englishmen, too, are undoubtedly selfish. If an Englishman had an echo in his garden, he would probably wish to keep it all to himself; but a Frenchman would certainly want to bring it to Paris. Be the causes, however,

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