

Admission

FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC.

A JOURNEY

TO

VANCOUVER ISLAND AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Prospectus

Montreal.

1872

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PROSPECTUS.

Whether from a want of knowledge of our resources, and of our powers, of the political necessities of the day as well as of the measures to be taken in view of the contingencies of the future; whether from an imperfect knowledge of the advantages of our geographical position, or a doubt of the greatness of the forces lying dormant in our young Canadian Confederation; whether, in a word, from prejudices in the minds of some, fear or feebleness in the breast of others, many eminent men, notwithstanding the often repeated assurances and promises of our statesmen, had but precarious faith in the creation and establishment of a great British empire on this continent.

The idea of seeing at some future day, the frontiers of Canada stretching from one Ocean to the other, and the immense tracts of country between the two seas united, and bound solidly together by the chain of a transcontinental railroad, would appear to such people to be the dazzling utopian vision of patriotic hearts rather than the design of statesmen prudently devised and well matured.

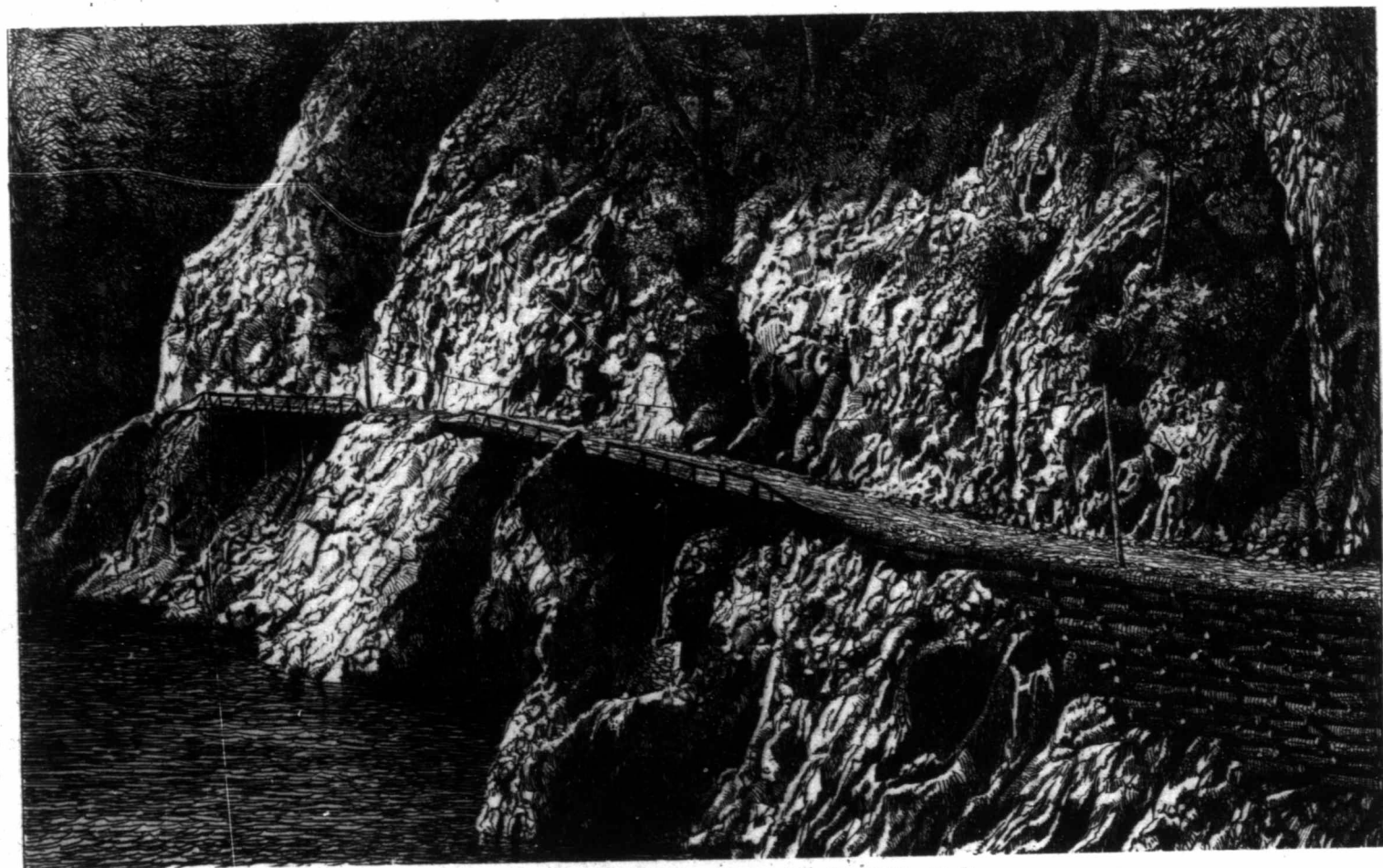
That Canada—like a young giant just emerging from infancy and essaying to walk alone—having one foot in the Atlantic, should seek at one step, and this the first one, to stride the Rocky Mountains and place the other foot in the Pacific—this would seem to such timorous minds impossible to be realized, in fact, utterly chimerical. Yet the attempt has succeeded: the dream of the night has become the reality of the morrow; the vision of yesterday stands the accomplished achievement of to-day.

The old world applauds our success; the Mother Country lends us her aid; our powerful neighbours treat us as their equals; and our Confederation, grown already great, fortified by trial, and confident of her strength, advances with no hesitating step. Thus, as an infant, when, after a few tottering steps, he has reached his object, stands firm and erect upon his feet, and smiles with a look of happy triumph, our young country, after a successful essay, can look round with elation on the charmed and amazed spectators of her progress.

The work which we are about to publish under the title of: "FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC, A JOURNEY TO VANCOUVER ISLAND AND BRITISH COLUMBIA," will comprise, not only an entertaining and elegantly written narrative of the journey, but also a desinterested view of Canadian state-policy, as well as an original but faithful review of the advancement of our country in its agricultural, commercial, industrial, and social aspects. It will furnish also an instructive itinerary of the route actually taken to reach our new province; a route of which *Manitoba*, and soon no doubt the *Saskatchewan*, will form the two principal stations. It is unnecessary to add that the book is especially intended to set forth the varied wealth and inexhaustible resources of British Columbia.

We consider it our especial duty, as well as a recommendation for our book, to inform the public that through the kindness of a gentleman well versed in literature, who has, later in life, accepted a position in the Ministry,—the Hon. H. L. Langevin, C. B., who has not allowed his present more exalted career to lead him to forget the earlier pursuits of his youth, nor his elevated position to make him neglect an opportunity of conferring a favour—through the kindness of this distinguished statesman the author has been able, without holding any official position, to accompany the Hon. Minister of Public Works in his mission to British Columbia; and profiting by this good fortune to collect from the most authentic sources, notes, information, and inquiries upon all subjects of importance, with the view of presenting a series of animated scenes in which the impressions made upon the mind of a traveller will be found among matters of a more technical character, the whole furnishing a complete and detailed description of a country hitherto but little known, abounding in resources, and fully as able to contribute, in the future, to the prosperity of the Confederation as the territories bordering on the Pacific to that of the United States.

In order to carry out the plan suggested by the title of the book it has been thought advisable to divide the work into two parts: the *first* part entitled "FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC," to comprehend the journey across the American continent; the passage and return from the one Ocean to



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the other, with the numerous incidents occurring during so long a trip: a description of the plains; the wonderful beauty of the places as yet unpeopled; some account of the great Pacific Railroad; the stay at Salt-Lake; Mormonism; visit to Brigham Young; excursion to the Rocky Mountains; picturesque scenes of the Sierras; wonders of California, San Francisco and the Chinese quarter, &c., &c. Moreover, as our new provinces constitute what may be called the Canadian *Far West* we have deemed it fitting, in view of the augmentation and importance of our relations with the Western States and Territories, to give some items of information concerning the population, industry, and principal productions of such of them as have been visited by the author.

The second part of the work, which will be its principal and really essential portion, will be styled "JOURNEY TO VANCOUVER ISLAND AND BRITISH COLUMBIA." It will embrace, along with the history of British Columbia since its discovery, an account of the different forms of government which have succeeded each other; its physical geography, its geological constitution, its climate, cities, ports, mineral productions, those of its forests and fields, its fisheries, commerce and industrial products. We shall also notice the manners and customs of the Indians, and offer some observations upon the advantages which the province holds out to emigrants from Europe.

The author has personally visited the country from the port of Esquimalt in the strait of Fuca to the bay of Burrard-Inlet, in the Sound; from the fertile plains of Cowichan and Comox to the wooded plateaux of Cascades Range; from Barclay-Sound to Nanaimo; from the mouth of the Fraser to the rivers Thompson and Harrison; from Seymour Narrows to the Cariboo mines, 600 miles in the interior; he has thus been enabled with his own eyes to observe the most striking points, and to gather the most accurate information.

A glance at the annexed summary of the contents of the chapters of the book will at once make clear the plan that has been pursued. To state figures and statistics divesting them of their dryness; to use official documents without imitating their stiffness; to weave these materials so indispensable to every book of a serious and instructive character in the web of a style abounding in description and anecdote, so as to offer to the public a work at once agreeable and useful, in which all professions, all ages, shall find a subject of interest, and relaxation, or even for study; to make known to Canada and to other countries the sublime scenery, and the as yet unexplored riches of British Columbia,—this has been our object.

On the title page of the work we have deemed it not amiss to print, as a very appropriate epigraph, and one hereafter to be often heard, the expression with which Sir G. E. Cartier concluded his speech in the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa, in favour of the annexation to Canada of this new province of the Pacific : ALL ABOARD FOR THE WEST !

TO
THE HON. HECTOR LOUIS LANGEVIN, C. B.

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, CANADA.

The existence of nations, like the lives of individuals, offers many extraordinary contrasts and singular coincidences. Who would have ever imagined that the handful of colonists whom France, in the time of her monarchical greatness cast upon these shores, and whom the fortune of war constrained her afterward to abandon, should become, by reason of the virtue naturally inherent in their race, loyalty, the very corner stone of an empire loyal obedience to Great Britain. (1)

Must it not appear a most striking coincidence, if we may not say providential, that, following the line of illustrious men such as Jacques Cartier, Roberval, Champlain, Maisonneuve, La Salle, Iberville, Lemoyne de Bienville, Montcalm, Levis, hardy adventurers, founders of cities, valiant captains, whose names float in our memories like glorious waifs left from the shipwreck of French colonial power in America, there has been reserved for one of their descendants, a loyal subject of the power against which they bore arms, the honour of achieving, in a confidential mission to Columbia, the completion of a political edifice of which his ancestors had laid the foundations.

Were there no gratitude to impel, history would lay upon me the obligation of dedicating my work to one so honoured.

Praying the acceptance of this dedication as the expression of profound personal respect, as well as a tribute of homage due for high public character and good service to our country, the author signs himself,

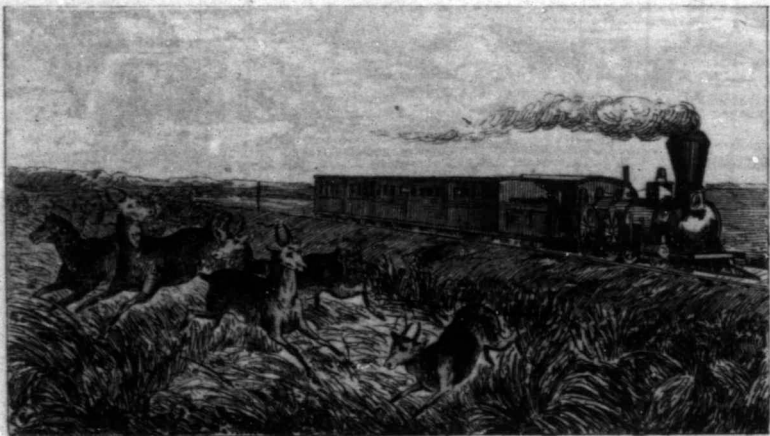
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MONTREAL, November 1872.

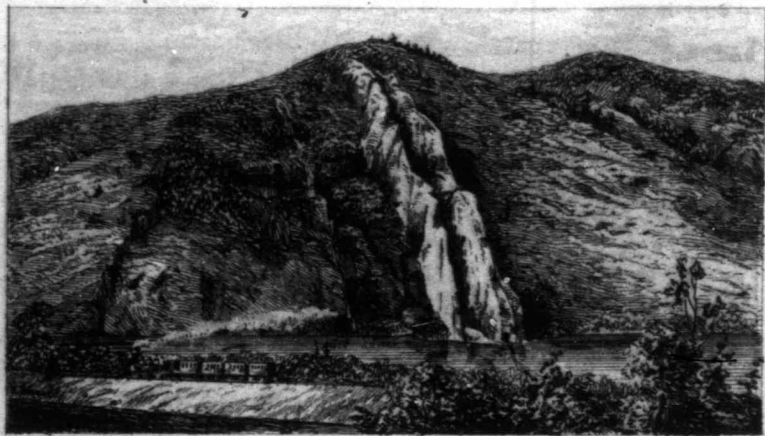
(1) Twice since the cession of this country to England, in 1778 and 1812, French Canadians have fought for the Mother Country against the United States. Since the establishment of the Confederation of the British Provinces of North America in 1866 Lower Canada has been the pivot, the political base of the new order of things.



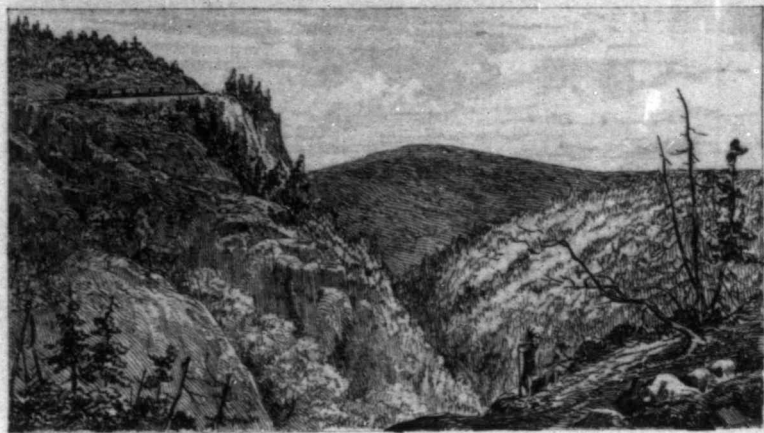
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CROSSING THE PRAIRIES.



THE DEVIL'S SLIDE.



CAPE HORN



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF SAN FRANCISCO.

FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC.

JOURNEY TO VANCOUVER ISLAND

AND

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

INTRODUCTION.

CHAPTER I.

Departure.—Farewells.—*La Colombie*.—Routes by which to reach British Columbia; the prairies, Isthmus of Panama, Cape Horn.—A title to discover.—Companions in travel.—Upper Canada.—The visiting deputation: Messrs. MacKenzie, Stirton, Hon. Mr. Albus and Somerville, Toronto.—Custom House at Port Huron.—The Grand Trunk of the United States.—Michigan, its appearance and resources.—Arrival at Chicago.—The city, its business.—Sherman Hotel.—The Aqueduct.—Lincoln Park.—Negro women and their fans.

CHAPTER II.

Terminus of Burlington and Quincy railroad.—Insurance agents.—Routes to Omaha.—Transcontinental railroad.—Pacific Union.—The Central Pacific.—Advantages and results of these roads.—Canadian Pacific railroad.—Sir Hugh Allan.—The Northern Pacific.—The plains of the West.—The farms.—The passengers.—Railroad accommodations for cooking and washing.—The Pullman Company and its cars.—New mode of travel.

CHAPTER III.

Railway carriage-restaurant.—The hotel keeper Bedard.—The waiters.—The haughty conduct of the blacks.—The State of Iowa.—Burlington.—The lumber trade.—The Mississippi.—Omaha.—Council Bluffs.—The Missouri.—Railroad terminus.—The bridge in course of construction.—Nebraska territory.—The storm.—The baggage.—The elevators.—Gilmore.—Butterfly.—Elkhorn.—Emigrant settlers.—Fremont.—The river Platte.

CHAPTER IV.

Entrance into the Rocky Mountains.—The Canadian missionary, Mr. Cusson.—Indian missions.—Canadians among the tribes.—The chief's pony.—The pipe of peace.—Father de Smet.—Savage Life.—The Metis of *Sioux City*.—Courtesy of the American government and of the Company.—The Irish in the army.—Canadian newspapers.—Cheyenne.—Wyoming territory.—Forts Laramée and Kearney.—Denver railway.—The Colorado.—Mineral resources.

CHAPTER V.

The table lands of the Rocky Mountains.—The highest peak.—Sherman station.—Dinner on the train.—Buffalo tongue.—Mountain shells.—John, the botanist.—Mr. Langevin's herbal.—The pines.—The brooks.—Fruit culture.—Collection of stones.—Temperature.—Sunset.—Bridges and viaducts.—Indian tombs.—Fishing and hunting.

CHAPTER VI.

The red banks. — Laramie Station. — Jury of women. — The depot. — Chinese laborers. — The white frost. — Coal mine. — The red desert. — The rock table. — The river Verte. — The deserted town. — Hares and foxes. — Passage of grasshoppers. — Fishing, 6131 feet above the sea. — Reinforcing locomotive. — Brilliance behind the glaciers. — American notice. — Fort Bridger. — Echo-Canyon. — Mormon Fortifications. — Echo village. — Wahsatch mountains.

CHAPTER VII.

Weber ravine, or Weber Canyon. — The thousand mile tree. — The devil's gates. — The devil's slide. — Ogden. — Departure for Salt Lake. — Mormon railroad. — Italian harper. — The travellers. — The journey, the twilight. — The crops. — Arrival at the city. — Scene in the omnibus. — Mormon hotel. — Salt-Lake City.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Mormons. — Origin of the sect, its progress and persecutions endured. — Its establishment in Utah Valley. — Customs and doctrines of the prophet. — Visit to Brigham Young.

CHAPTER IX.

Visit to Mormon tabernacle. — Construction of the temple. — Revolutionary teaching. — Business, industry and agriculture of the territory. — Cooperative societies. — Play at the prophet's theatre. — River Jordan. — Irrigating works in Utah. — Difficulties of the present visit to Camp Douglas.

CHAPTER X.

Return to Ogden. — Excursion to the gorge and river of Ogden. — Equipment and route. — Trout fishing. — Grizzly bears. — Picnic by the river. — John's cookery. — Manufacture of cloth. — Ox carts. — Mormon colony. — The gold mines. — The Bohemian Jew, exchange agent. — The raspberries. — The Swedish emigrant, his saw-mill, and business plans. — The English book-seller. — Photography on the train. — Chinese autograph. — Bear and eagle for sale.

CHAPTER XI.

Departure from Ogden. — Accident. — Red flags. — Stoppage on the road. — Two hours detention. — Corinne. — Stages of Montana territory. — A tragedy in two minutes. — The great American desert. — Halleck station. — The American deserter. — Elks city. — The cavern at Shermantown. — The palisades. — The young girl's grave. — The pillars of dust. — Humboldt. — The verdure. — Artesian wells. — The white plains. — The mirage.

CHAPTER XII.

Oyster soup, 1,500 feet above the sea. — A train lost in the snow. — The Sierra Nevada, its forest and mines. — The "bits and reals." — Lakes Tahoe and Donner. — Summit station. — Cisco. — Cape Horn. — Colfax. — Nevada country. — Junction of the Pacific and Oregon and California railways. — Sacramento. — Valley of Vallejo. — Terminus of Pacific railroad. — Oakland.

CHAPTER XIII.

Arrival at San Francisco. — The city, its appearance. — Temperature. — Inhabitants. — Theatres. — Woodward's gardens, or the zoological garden. — A walk to Cliff House. — Mass at the Cathedral. — Mission Dolores. — Little nuggets of gold, or the gambling house. — Messrs. Armstrong and Smyth. — A visit to the Chinese quarter. — The pagoda. — Fumes of opium. — The jewellers. — The restaurants. — The gambling saloons. — The manners and employments of the Chinese. — The climate, population, agriculture, industry, mines, and resources of the State of California. — Courtesy of the English Consul-general, Mr. W. Lane Booker.

CHAPTER XIV.

Departure for Victoria. — Steamer *Prince Alfred*. — Contract for the Canadian mail. — Messrs. Rosenfeld and Birmingham. — Senator for Oregon, Mr. Williams, member of the commission of the Washington Treaty. — Route by Portland and Olympia. — Departure delayed. — Captain Sholl. — Basket of peaches and case of wine. — Lunch. — The Golden Gate, the bay of San Francisco. — The passengers. — Sea sickness. — The voyage. — The shores of Oregon. — Columbia River. — Washington territory. — Olympic mountains. — American frigate *Saranac*. — North East wind. — Predictions of the Captain. — View of Vancouver Island. — Fuca strait.

CHAPTER XV.

The pilot. — Lighthouse and port of Esquimalt. — Entrances to the port of Victoria. — Anchorage. — Discovery of British Columbia, its colonization. — Political changes. — The city of Victoria. — Reception of Hon. Mr. Langevin. — Governor's house.

CHAPITRE XVI.

Walk to Esquimalt. — Currents, tides, and harbours on the coast. — Dockyard. — Admiral Farquhart. — Walk around Victoria. — The gorge. — French Hospital. — Restaurant Driard, or the epic of a cook. — Lunch and ball on board the *Zealous*. — Sail to Nanaimo. — Steamer *Douglas*. — Captain Clarke. — The Archipelago. — The savages. — The Mount Backer. — Agricultural settlers of *Chimerous*, *Cowichan*, *Maple-Bay*, *Admiral-Island*. — County-magistrate Mr. Spalding. — College chum of Sir G. E. Cartier. — Indian villages. — *Uclator* and *Seychelles* tribes.

CHAPTER XVII.

Coal mines of Nanaimo. — Geological description of the island. — Stone-quarry. — The agent, Mr. Dawes. — Election times. — Postal arrangements. — The American from Sitka. — Shipment of cattle at *Maple-Bay*. — The Indians of the island, their numbers and customs. — Animals of the island. — Vegetables. — Villages. — Miners' hotel.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Return to Victoria. — Optical phenomenon. — The lighthouse upside down. — Departure for New-Westminster. — Steamer *Enterprise*. — Courtesy of the Hudson Bay Company. — Their administration in the island. — The route. — Another archipelago. — Nanaimo again. — The protestant minister, Mr. Owen and his family. — Mouth of Fraser river: Quicksands, fogs, source of the river, its course and navigation. — The seals on the buoys. — The rivers, springs and lakes of British Columbia. — The American geologist, Mr. Leconte and the correspondent of the *Alta California*. — Members of religious orders on board. — Metis women. — Arrival at New-Westminster.

CHAPTER XIX.

Colonial Hotel. — The city of New-Westminster. — Its foundation, its progress and its future. — The money. — The director, Mr. Claudet. — Departure for Yale. — The steamer *Victoria*. — Indians and their squaws on the banks of Fraser. — Their condition. — Catholic and protestant missions. — The late Mgr. Demers, Mgr. D'Harbonney. — Brother Oblat. — The postmaster. — St. Mary's mission. — Reception of Hon. Mr. Langevin by the Indians. — The mission of Mr. Duncan, catechist and trader at Metlakahla. — The Canadian ex-employees of the Hudson Bay Company. — Settlement of a colonist. — The river Harrison. — Visit to a camp of savages. — Fort Hope. — Its mines. — The Indians and the rapid of the river. — Visit of Judge Bushby. — The six Canadian miners. — The rock of the Two-Sisters. — Devil's gate. — Farming on the banks of the Fraser.

CHAPTER XX.

Arrival at Yale. — A comical incident. — The rapids. — Captain Smith's project. — Mr. Cruse, puisne judge of the Superior Court. — Mr. Robertson, mayor of New-Westminster. — Claims on the Fraser. — Indian feast. — Salmon fishing. — Our guide, Mr. Barnard, his life, and success. — The team and vehicle. — The route to Cariboo. — Suspension bridge. — Mr. Trutch, engineer, Lieutenant-Governor. — Indians of the interior. — River Anderson. — Indian salmon preserves. — Graves of Indian chiefs. — Geological aspect of the country. — Arrival at *Boston Bar*. — Origin of the name. — Canadian Hotel. — The mines and the Chinese.

CHAPTER XXI.

Departure from *Boston Bar*. — Jackass mountain. — Grave of an European. — Breakfast at Lytton. — Globe Hotel. — Mr. and Mrs. Ollier. — The protestant mission. — The ranch of Mr. Ollier. — The mines. — Thompson river. — The bridge. — The road. — The devil's chair. — Trains of provisions and goods. — Their equipment, march, camping and provisioning. — Surprise and joy of the Indians. — Meeting with a chief. — Iron horse, the fetish of John. — Fires in the woods. — The Frenchman, Pierre Morin. — Hahsraft station. — The limit of Mr. Cornwall. — Cattle breeding. — Regatta on the Thompson river. — The brewer in the hills.

CHAPTER XXII.

Cascades mountain range. — Olympian mountains. — Hillslocks. — Bonaparte valley. — Farms and agriculture. — Grave Creek. — Arrival at Clinton. — The city and its neighborhood. — Industry. — Agriculture. — The drama of the hotel. — Chinese cooks and waiters. — Meeting with Mr. E. H. Sanders, county judge. — Departure from Clinton.

Green timber. — The Chasm. — Mount Big-Bee. — The ascent. — The view. — The Indian messenger. — Meeting with the Mail-Coach. — The lunar rainbow. — Arrival at Bridges Creek. — The incantations of a doctor. — A night at the hotel.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Departure for Soda Creek. — Lake la Hache. — The miner traveller. — Forced to wait. — Breakfast at Blue Tent. — The Guide Stevens Seynglay. — Burial of an Indian chief. — The farm of Mr. J. T. Barnard. — Mission at lake Williams. — Mr. John Saul, cattle breeder. — Mode of breeding. — Cereals. — Meeting with the missionary, Mr. Gaudidier. — Murder of a miner, his grave. — Reception of an Indian doctor. — Narrow Valley, Deep Valley. — The American farm of Messrs. Calbreath and Hawks, their method of irrigation. — Arrival at Soda Creek.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Steamer *L'Huot*. — The American, Mr. Gustavus Blinwright. — Fort George. — River Nechago. — Lake Stewart. — River Taché. — Lake Tremble. — River Middle. — Lake Tada. — Ominica. — The Mines on the rivers Germanson and Peace. — The nuggets. — Quesnel Mouth. — Mr. J. H. Kay, of Ottawa. — The ferry boat. — The coal mine. — Petition to Hon. Mr. Langevin. — Rising of the Fraser river in 12 hours. — Captains Haughton and Vernon. — The valley of O'Kanagan. — Shipment of a herd of cattle. — Canadian farm of Mr. Brousseau, on the Prairie. — Route to Cariboo. — Wallace the miner. — The produce of his farm.

CHAPTER XXV.

First cold weather. — Travelling wrappers. — Arrival at Vanwinkle. — Miners' cabins. — The lodging. — South Wales mine. — Accident on the brink of the precipice. — Judge Ball. — William's Creek. — River and town of Bakerville. — Messrs. Walkem and Thompson. — Cariboo district. — Gold mines, and their discovery. — Ballerat mine. — Mount Forest mine. — American Company, Messrs. Kutre and Lane. — Formation of gold. — Processes of extraction. — The *Rocker*. — The mine tunnel. — The shafts. — Hydraulic mines. — Quartz mill. — Bed-Rock-Flume Company. — Lake Jack-Club. — Visit to the assay office. — Melting of the gold. — Fixing the standard. — Exports. — Amateur theatricals. — Demonstration in honour of the Hon. Mr. Langevin.

CHAPTER XXVI.

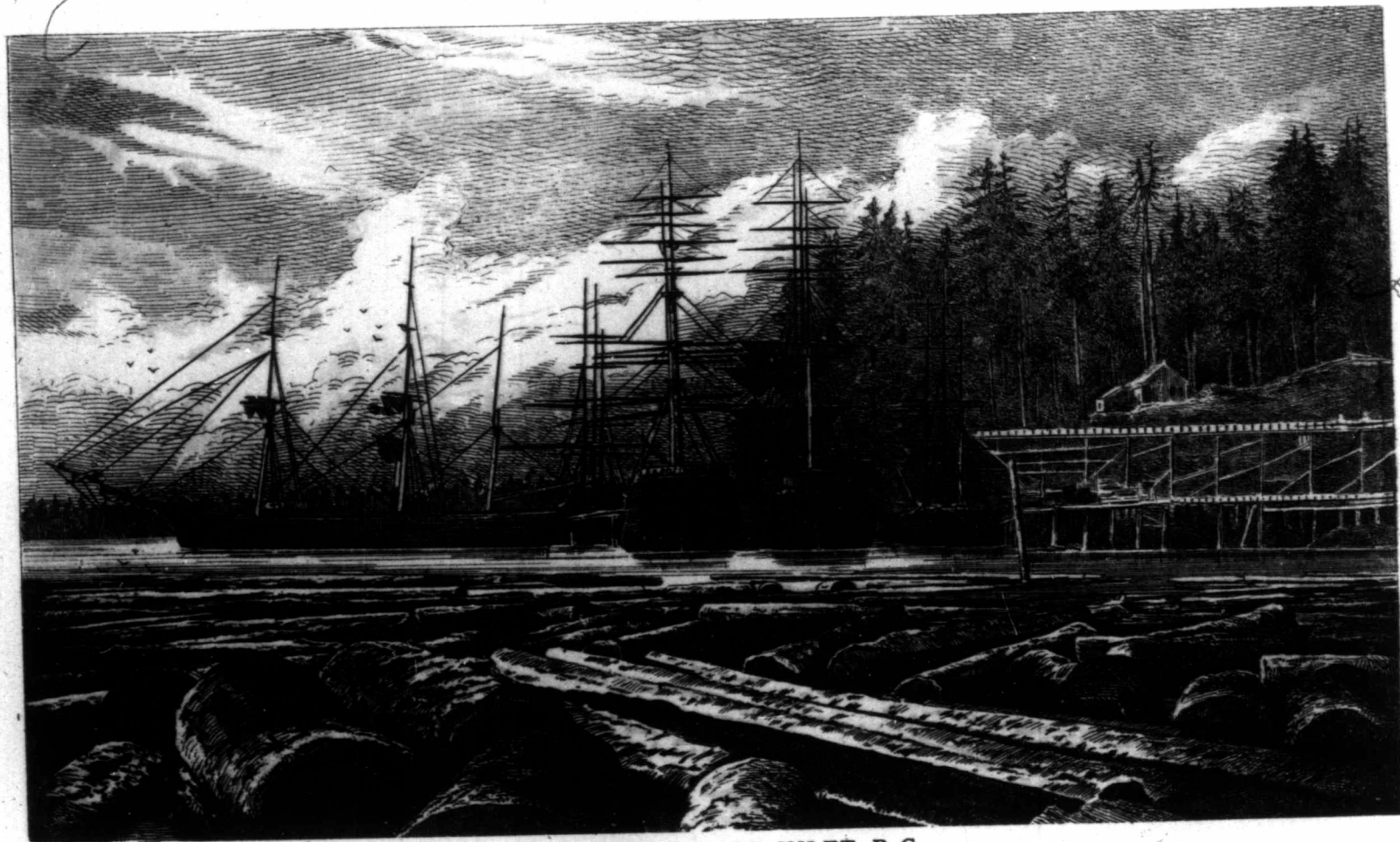
Return to New-Westminster. — Arrival at Yale. — Meeting with a company of Canadian surveyors. — Invitation from the Mayor and City Council of New-Westminster. — Visit to Burrard Inlet. Messrs. Halbrook, Nelson, Claudet, &c., &c. The woodyards. — Steam sawmills. — The slide on fire. — The bay. — The lumber trade. — The forest of British Columbia. — Messrs. Moodie, Dietz, Nelson and Co. — Hastings Mills Company. — Dance room of the savages. — The working men, their reading rooms. — The French ship, *Theodore-Duceo*. Captain Guignon. — Accident to Mr. Braw, custom house officer. — Government of British Columbia, religion, population, commerce, industry, banks, revenues, expenditure, &c., &c.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Public buildings of New-Westminster. — Departure for Victoria. — Dinner to Hon. Mr. Langevin. — The dining room, the decorations, the managing stewards (*Commissaire-général*), the guests, and speeches. — Visit to the public buildings. — Laying the corner stone of the convent of St. Anne. — Visit to the bishop's palace, to the convent, to the college. — The Rev. Messrs. Seghers, Manda, Kiry, Brabant and Jonekan. — Excursion to Seymour Narrows. — The passengers. — The fog. — The anchorage. — Trip to Nanaimo. — Comox. — Seymour Narrows. — The tide. — The smuggling schooner. — A night in the bay of Maunics. — Wolves. — Savage animals of the Island. — Hunting party. — A hunter lost in the woods. — The miners and the Indian canoe picked up. — A night in Deep Bay. — Whaling brig *Byzantium*. — Captain Roys, inventor of the harpoon with the exploding ball. — The fisheries of British Columbia.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Visit to Island of San Juan. — Steamer *Sparrow Hawk*. — The English and American camps. — Origin of the difficulty about this Island. — Its position and importance. — Visit to Race-Rock light house. — Barclay-Sound. — Alberni canal. — Project for canal extension as far as Nanaimo. — Terminus of Canadian Pacific Railroad. — Indians of the west side. — A priest become a minister. — Fishing stations. — Immigration into British Columbia. — Departure from Victoria. — Cheers for the Hon. Mr. Langevin. — Passage across. — The Canadians of San Francisco. — Rock Island railroad. — The return.



VIEW AT BURRARD INLET, B. C.

ILLUSTRATIONS TO BE CONTAINED IN THE BOOK.

CHAPTER I.

Quebec. — Montreal. — Toronto. — Chicago.

CHAPTER II.

Pacific Transcontinental R. R. — Refreshment car. — Omaha. — Council Bluffs.

CHAPTER III.

The River Platte. — The plains. — The Antelope.

CHAPTER IV.

The Indians. — Soda water fountain. — Cheyenne.

CHAPTER V.

The desert, east of Dale Creek. — Prairie dogs. — Bridge of Dale Creek.

CHAPTER VI.

Church Butte. — Little Cotton Wood. — Wasatch mountains.

CHAPTER VII.

Weber Canyon. — The thousand mile tree. — Devil's gates. — Ogden village.

CHAPTER VIII.

Salt-Lake city. — Brigham Young. — The President's house. — The temple.

CHAPTER IX.

The tabernacle. — The theatre. — A street in the city. — Revolutionary sign. — Salt-Lake.

CHAPTER X.

A street in Ogden. — View of the river and Canyon. — Valley of Zion.

CHAPTER XI.

The stockades. — Valley of Truckee. — The snow shed. — The great American desert.

CHAPTER XII.

Railway train for Clisco. — Lake Tahoe. — Clisco. — Snow sheds. — City of Sacramento.

CHAPTER XIII.

Railway terminus. — Cape Horn. — Two views of San Francisco.

CHAPTER XIV.

Golden gate. — Bay of Drake, 1868. — Bay of San Francisco. — A street of the city.

CHAPTER XV.

Town of Victoria. -- Governor's official residence. -- Portrait of Mr. Trutch. -- Private residence of Mr. Trutch.

CHAPTER XVI.

Harbor of Esquimalt. -- View of Nanaimo. -- Indian villages.

CHAPTER XVII.

Types of Indians. -- Indian camp.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Fraser river. -- The steamboat *Victoria*.

CHAPTER XIX.

New-Westminster. -- Town of Hope. -- River Harisson.

CHAPTER XX.

Yale city. -- Suspension bridge. -- Indian drying rooms.

CHAPTER XXI.

Indian graves. -- River Thompson. -- Tra'ns of goods and provisions. -- Town of Lytton.

CHAPTER XXII.

Town of Clinton. -- The Chasm.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Waterfall on the road. -- Spencer bridge.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Two views of the Cariboo road.

CHAPTER XXV.

Vanwinkle. -- Mining district. -- The rocker. -- The tunnel. -- Subterranean galleries. -- Hydraulic mine. -- Quartz mill.

CHAPTER XXVI.

The Douglass pine. -- Trees of Burrard Inlet. -- Sawmill on the Pacific coast.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Salmon fishing. -- Whale fishing.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Maps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

TERMS.

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