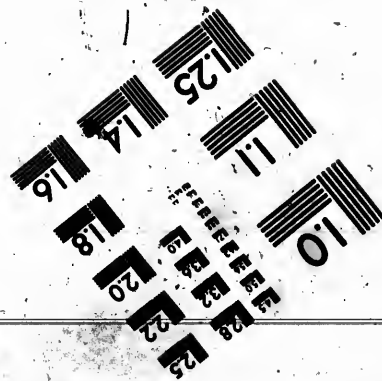
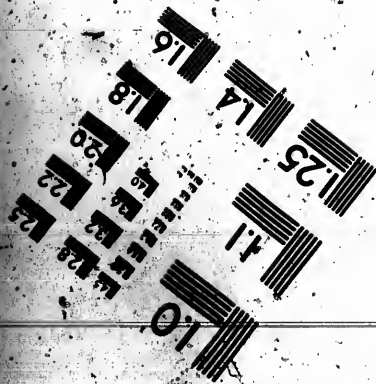
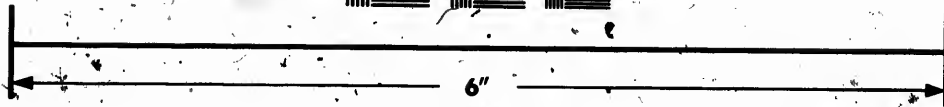
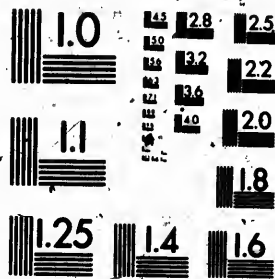


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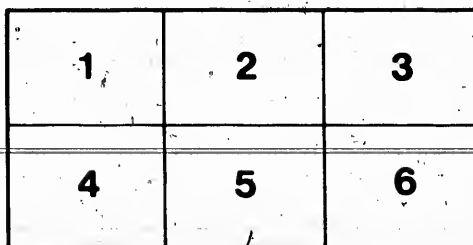
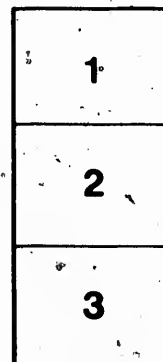
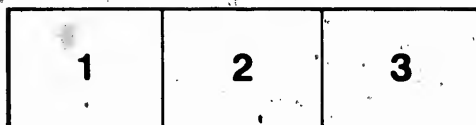
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## HOMES OF THE ENGLISH OVER THE SEA.

## No. 1.—BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

## GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

As it would be needless to dilate at any length upon the vast public benefits likely to accrue from the discovery of this new El Dorado, it is our intention to abstain from the discussion of any abstract questions relating to it, in order that the following pages may be found to partake of an eminently practical character. We shall endeavour to furnish our readers with a comprehensive and minute description of the natural aspects and physical peculiarities of the country, collated from the most reliable authorities, and preceded by a brief historical sketch of the circumstances attending its early discovery; and, finally, to indicate the readiest and cheapest method of reaching it.

British Columbia is situated on the north-west coast of North America, and is defined, in the bill introduced into the House of Commons for its future government by Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, as comprising "all such territories within the dominion of Her Majesty as are bounded to the south by the frontier of the United States of America, to the east by the Watershed between the streams which flow into the Pacific Ocean and those which flow into the Atlantic and Icy Oceans, to the north by the fifty-fifth parallel of north latitude; and to the west by the Pacific Ocean; and shall include Queen Charlotte's Island and all other islands adjacent, excepting Vancouver Island," which has a special constitution of its own.

Vancouver Island lies off the mainland at a distance of about forty or fifty miles, extending from north latitude  $48^{\circ} 17'$  to  $50^{\circ} 55'$ , and from west longitude  $123^{\circ} 10'$  to  $128^{\circ} 30'$ . Its extreme length from north-west to south-east is 276 miles; its breadth varies from 50 miles to 65 miles. On the east and north-east it is separated from the coast of British America by the Gulf of Georgia and Queen Charlotte's Sound, and on the south the Strait of San Juan de Fuca

separates it from the Oregon territory of the United States. North of Queen Charlotte's Sound will be found Queen Charlotte's Islands, between  $52^{\circ}$  and  $54^{\circ}$  north latitude. The group consists of three islands, about 150 miles in length, by about 60 miles in breadth.

The claim of the Spaniards to having made the first successful explorations on the western coast of North America in the sixteenth century is very generally admitted. In consequence of a bull issued in 1494 by Pope Alexander VI, the celebrated Treaty of Partition was concluded between the united Spanish sovereigns and the King of Portugal. In accordance with this treaty the Spaniards were to make no attempts to communicate with India by sea through eastern routes, which became, in a manner, the property of Portugal; while, on the other hand, they were to possess exclusive control and use of every western channel of intercourse with those countries which might be discovered.

In 1613 Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the governor of the colony of Darien, on the Atlantic, after a short march across the mountains overlooking that place, arrived on the shore of a sea. The Spaniards, in consequence, directed their researches particularly towards this isthmus until the complete separation of the oceans in that quarter was satisfactorily established. In the meanwhile, a Portuguese in the same service, one Fernando Magalhaens or Magellan, discovered the strait which has hitherto borne his name, and thereby solved the difficult geographical problem as to the possibility of circumnavigating the globe. While Magellan was prosecuting his labours in this direction, Hernan Cortes conquered the rich and populous empire of Mexico, and in the course of a few years Peru and Chili likewise passed into the possession of the Spanish monarch. The most northern settlement on the Pacific side of the American continent

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known in 1523 was Cullacan, a small place near the eastern side of the entrance to the Gulf of California. The enterprising Cortes despatched several fruitless expeditions for the purpose of extending his dominions, and at length succeeded in planting a colony at La Santa Cruz, at the southern extremity of the peninsula. Of the voyage made by him in the arm of the sea between California and the continent, the accounts are conflicting, and involved in considerable obscurity. However, it is certain he ultimately cleared up every doubt as to the continuity of that country with America in the north-east. After a succession of failures by several adventurers, the Spaniards came to the conclusion that neither wealthy nations nor navigable passages between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans were to be found north of Mexico; unless beyond the fortieth degree of latitude. They then desisted in their efforts, and did not resume them for upwards of forty years. The English having thrown off their allegiance to the head of the Roman Catholic Church, misunderstandings began to arise between them and the Spaniards, with reference to the monopolising policy pursued in certain sections of the New World. The English Government repeatedly protested against the exclusive regulations laid down, and their just demands were as persistently rejected. Their right to occupy vacant portions of America being refused to be recognised, Queen Elizabeth did not scruple to sanction the violation of laws which she declared to be utterly unjustifiable. In December, 1577, the most celebrated naval captain of the age, Francis Drake, sailed from Plymouth with five small vessels, ostensibly on a voyage to Egypt, but really on a hostile cruise against the dominions and subjects of Spain. He safely navigated three of them through the Straits of Magellan; but scarcely had he accomplished this arduous task, when his little fleet was reduced by a storm to a schooner of a hundred tons burden, with a crew of sixty men; but, in defiance of this misfortune, he determined upon persisting in his enterprise. He sailed northward, and is reported to have pushed his investigations as far as

the Bay of San Francisco. This statement seems based on rather questionable authority, and has originated much dispute, sufficiently authentic evidence not having been brought forward to substantiate the supposition that Drake had seen any part of the coast hitherto undiscovered. Official surveys were ordered, and the Captain-General of California, Sebastian Vizcaino, struggled bravely to effect settlements at San Diego, Monterey, and other points of the coast, with a view of facilitating the trade with India; but his perseverance was unavailing, and after his death no further measures were adopted, either by individual Spaniards or their government, to add to their territory in those regions until one hundred and sixty years had elapsed.

In 1774 the British legislature was anxious to ascertain definitively whether a northern passage existed between the two oceans; and it was decided that two vessels should sail simultaneously for the North Pacific and Baffin's Bay. Captain Cook, who about this time returned from his second circumnavigation of the earth, volunteered to command the expedition, and his offer being accepted, he started from Plymouth on the 12th July, 1776, in his old ship, the *Resolution*, accompanied by the *Discovery*, under Captain Charles Clerk. As Captain Cook has the merit of being the first European who landed upon Vancouver Island, by his discovery of Nootka Sound, we propose extracting an admirable description from Robert Greenhow's "History of Oregon and California, &c.," to which excellent work we are indebted for much valuable matter. "He was instructed to proceed by way of the Cape of Good Hope and Otaheite to the coast of New Albion, endeavouring to fall in with it in the latitude of 45°. He was there to put into the first convenient port, to recruit his wood, water, and refreshments, and then to sail northward. . . .

"The application of the name of New Albion showed that the British government had no intention to resign the rights supposed or pretended to have been acquired by Drake's visit to that region. In order to revive and fortify these claims,



Cook was instructed, with the consent of the natives, to take possession, in the name of the King of Great Britain, of convenient situations in such countries that had not already been visited by any other European power. . . . He did not arrive upon the north-west coast of America until the 7th of March, 1788, when he made the land about a hundred miles north of Mendocino. For several days afterwards he was prevented by violent storms from advancing, as he wished, towards the north, and was driven along the coast to some distance in the contrary direction. The wind then becoming favourable, he took the desired course, and on the 22nd of the month his ships were opposite a projecting point of the continent, situated a little beyond the forty-eighth parallel, to which he gave the name of Cape Flattery, in token of his improved prospects. He continued his voyage along the shore of what he supposed to be the continent, as far as the latitude of 49°. Under that parallel he found a spacious and secure bay, offering every facility for the repair of his vessels and the refreshment of his men, in which he cast anchor on the 29th of March, bestowing upon it, at the same time, the name of King George's Sound. This name he shortly afterwards changed to Nootka Sound, under the impression (which appears to have been incorrect) that Nootka was the term employed to distinguish the bay by the natives of the surrounding territory." In answer to inquiries the natives asserted they had never seen any other vessels, nor had they ever communicated with any other civilized people. Cook, therefore, felt justified in putting forward his claim as being the first discoverer of Nootka Sound, and it has since been almost universally conceded to him. The results of Cook's researches were far more important than those obtained by all the navigators who had hitherto explored this part of the sea. The positions of a number of points on the western side of America were for the first time accurately determined, and means were thus afforded for ascertaining approximately the extent of the continent. Henceforth Nootka became the place

to which vessels sailing from the south generally steered, and from which they took their departure on returning, as it offered greater facilities for obtaining water and provisions, as well as for repairs, than any other harbour in that part of the ocean. In 1790 a serious controversy sprang up between Great Britain and Spain, relative to the navigation of the Pacific and Southern oceans, and the unoccupied portions of America bordering upon those seas. This was the first occasion that the right of sovereignty asserted by Spain over this vast region had been formally contested, although her pretensions to exclusive navigation had long since ceased to be treated with deference by the rest of the world. Upon careful examination of official documents it has been clearly demonstrated that "before the arrival of the Spanish commander, Martinez, at Nootka, in May, 1789, no settlement, factory, or commercial or military establishment whatsoever had been founded, or even attempted; and no jurisdiction had ever been exercised by the subjects or authorities of any civilized nation in any part of America bordering on the Pacific, between Port San Francisco and Prince William's Sound." It is true other Europeans had landed at different places, displaying flags, and constructing crosses on behalf of their respective countries; but such acts were invariably deemed idle ceremonies, conveying no prescriptive property in the soil. After a protracted controversy, however, Spain undertook by treaty, in 1790, to restore several pieces of land and buildings in the vicinity of Nootka Sound, which were declared to belong to John Meares and other British subjects at the time of the occupation of that harbour by the forces of his Catholic Majesty. Notwithstanding this demand was earnestly pressed and conceded, many circumstances combine to show that the basis upon which it was urged was very slight. The convention, nevertheless, having been concluded, Captain George Vancouver, who had been one of Cook's lieutenants, was commanded to proceed there immediately, and receive the surrender of such lands and buildings as were specified in this treaty. He was

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also instructed to commence a scientific examination of the coasts included between the thirty-fifth and sixtieth parallels of north latitude, and more particularly to explore the supposed Straits of Fuca, said to have been passed through by an American sloop, Washington.

Vancouver departed on the 1st of May from Cape Flattery, on the southern side of the entrance to the strait, in order to perform the latter but most important part of his instructions. He sailed along the shore eastwards to the distance of about one hundred miles, and first entered a passage opening south, which he named Admiralty Inlet, terminating in a bay called by him Puget's Sound. Many inlets on either side of the bay were thus explored to their terminations, and they then passed by an opening to the north-west into another extensive arm of the sea, where they unexpectedly met with two Spanish schooners employed in a similar duty. They came to an arrangement to unite their labours, and continued in company nearly a month, interchanging mutual civilities by the exhibition of their charts. At the north-western extremity of the Gulf of Georgia they separated, and the British passed through an intricate channel, called by them Johnstone's Strait, emerging into the Pacific by Queen Charlotte's or Pintard's Sound.

On the 28th of August, 1792, Vancouver communicated to the Spanish commissioner, Quadra, at Nootka, the fact established by him, "that the supposed Strait of Fuca was merely an arm of the Pacific, dividing from the American continent a great island, on the western side of which the territory then occupied by the Spaniards, and claimed by the British, was situated." The two officers agreed that the island should bear the names of both; and it has since been distinguished on maps by the inconvenient appellation of "Quadra and Vancouver Island."

It will be observed that a lack of adequate space has compelled us to compress our matter within a small compass, unusually limited, considering the amplitude of the materials at our disposal. But as we are anxious to render this historical sketch as complete as possible,

it is requisite that we should glance at the early operations of the different trading companies and private individuals, who, impelled by the lust of wealth, vigorously sought to force a path over the Rocky Mountains in pursuit of their wishes.

The United States and Great Britain having signed a treaty of commerce and navigation in 1794, an extensive trade, exclusively in furs, was carried on by Americans with the Indians inhabiting the countries about the Upper Mississippi and Lake Superior. The British fur-traders made their first expedition beyond the Rocky Mountains in 1806, when Mr. Simon Frazer, a partner of the North-West Company, established a trading port on Frazer's Lake, in British Columbia. John Jacob Astor, a German merchant of large capital, residing in New York, projected an association, to be called the Pacific Fur Company, which, under certain conditions, was to enjoy the exclusive privileges of trading with the Russian American possessions. To execute these plans, Mr. Astor engaged as partners in the concern a number of persons, nearly all Scotchmen. These partners were to conduct the business in the west, under the control of a superintendent, and they were collectively to divide one-half of the profits, the other half being retained by the projector for having advanced all the funds. The first party quitted New York in the Tonquin, and arrived at the mouth of the Columbia in March, 1811. A spot was selected on the south bank of the river, eight miles from the ocean, on which a large factory was erected, and called Astoria, as a compliment to the originator of the speculation. In 1819, through the intervention of the British Colonial Department, these companies became amalgamated with the celebrated Hudson's Bay Company; and, as this corporation has played a prominent part in the administration of affairs in the district to the west of the Rocky Mountains, it may not, perhaps, be uninteresting to revert to the circumstances under which it was created. Hudson's Bay is about 900 miles in length, by 600 at its greatest breadth, with a surrounding coast of 300 miles.



These shores having been found to be tenanted by furred animals of great value, the idea of forming a settlement was suggested by Groselier, a Frenchman, who, having failed in obtaining any countenance from his own countrymen, laid his scheme before Prince Rupert, who immediately perceived its value. A capital of £10,500 was subscribed by the Duke of Albemarle, Lord Craven, and others, and a charter of incorporation was granted by Charles II. in 1670. Stations were settled on Moose River, and a few years later on the Albany, and soon after two more on the Nelson and the Severn. Hostilities were constantly occurring between the French and English settlers; but, notwithstanding the fact of the company having sustained gigantic losses, they prospered marvellously—a conclusive proof of the lucrative nature of their transactions.

At the peace of Utrecht the factories captured by the enemy were restored to them, and in 1720 they had trebled their capital, with a call of only 10 per cent. on the shareholders. Again, in 1782, a number of their factories were appropriated by the French, under Perouse, after which period they had to encounter much fierce competition with the North-West Company, terminating in aggressive animosity and bloodshed. At length, in 1821, an Act of Parliament was passed under which the crown granted to the company (then including the three rival associations) a license of exclusive trade "over all those tracts that might not be included in the original charter, and also over those tracts which, by mutual consent, were open to the subjects of England and those of the United States." After a careful investigation on the part of the government, this license was renewed on the 30th of May, 1838, for twenty-one years.

The affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company were conducted by a governor, deputy governor, and a committee of seven, elected by 259 proprietors, representing an aggregate capital of £400,000. Vancouver Island was made over to the company by the crown in 1849, the grant being revocable at the end of eleven years, upon the distinct understanding that they

should attempt to colonise it. The administration of the island not being satisfactory to the Imperial government, the lease was not renewed.

The computed area of the new El Dorado is not less than 200,000 square miles, and, as the intelligence of the discovery of gold was circulated and confirmed an indiscriminate rush of a Bohemian population of sturdy diggers, in search of the auriferous deposits might be anticipated. An arduous task thus devolved upon our legislators, it being indispensable, for the security of life and property, that this vast tract of country should be covered by the protection of law and order, adequately supported to enforce its strict observance. To provide for this contingency, Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton brought forward a bill in the House of Commons to regulate the future government of this dependency. The purport of this bill was to establish a provisional government for a specific period of five years, when its authority will give place to those free institutions for which it is framed to pave the way. It empowers Her Majesty, until the 31st of December, 1862, "to appoint an officer to make provision for the administration of justice, and to devise laws for the peace, order, and good government of the colony; and, as soon as it may be deemed convenient, by order in council, to authorise such officer to constitute a legislature, to consist of the governor and a council, or council and assembly, to be composed of such persons, elected in such manners and subject to such regulations as it may be deemed expedient." Vancouver Island, which is 700 miles distant, is not included, as it is destined to become a great naval station, and the attention of the authorities will be absorbed in developing its resources. The question of future annexation is left open, so that it is competent for the inhabitants at any time to address the crown to unite the island and the mainland under one governor. A sufficient naval and military reinforcement has been sent out to support the executive.

It was the policy of the Hudson's Bay Company to discourage colonisation as far as practicable, as their profits depended

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Upon the application for a renewal of the charter, Mr. Roebuck moved a series of resolutions in the House of Commons to the effect—

1. That the privileges of the Hudson's Bay Company, about to expire, ought not to be renewed.

2. That the legal validity of the exclusive rights claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company under their charter ought at once to be determined by process of law.

3. That so much of the territory hitherto held by the Hudson's Bay Company as may be needed for the purpose of colonisation ought without delay to be resumed by the government of this country.

An interesting discussion ensued, in the course of which Lord Bury asserted that a large portion of the territory now claimed by the company was in the occupation of France at the time the charter was granted by Charles II., so that the King could not have given them a country which was the property of another state. He endeavoured to prove, by a variety of details, that the country was fertile, and in all respects fitted for colonisation in the prairie districts, and offered ample means of internal communication. Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, in explanation of the intention of his colleagues, stated that the charter of the company gave no territorial rights, and involved no question of compensation for lands that might be withdrawn. The government had made up their minds not to renew the license over any part of the Indian territory which was adapted for colonisation. The question of the validity of the company's right under their charter would be, however, submitted to the present law officers of the crown, and that next session they would be in a position to propose a scheme on the subject which would satisfy all parties. It was also intimated that, in the event of the Canadian government declining to take the Red River Settlement, the Imperial government was prepared to consider the expediency of creating these districts into a distinct and independent colony. On

Tuesday, July 27th, the Earl of Carnarvon, in requesting the House of Lords to permit the "Government of New Caledonia Bill" to be read a second time, merely recapitulated the arguments adduced by the Colonial Secretary in the other house, but in conclusion said that, objections having been taken to the name of New Caledonia, though it seemed to be the first title given in the old maps, and it was also used by Humboldt when speaking of the territory, Her Majesty, however, had been graciously pleased to signify her pleasure that henceforth the colony should be known by the name of British Columbia. The Duke of Newcastle availed himself of the opportunity to eulogise the advantageous position of this valuable acquisition to our colonial possessions, as offering facilities for a better system of colonisation than the mere eruption of gold-diggers. It was not like other gold-bearing districts, barren and rocky. It was a singularly fine country, apart from the gold discoveries in it. It possessed a fertile soil, magnificent woods of the finest timber for shipbuilding purposes, abundant and excellent fisheries, and coal in large quantities of a nature to generate steam. It contained all the elements of a prosperous colony, and he could not help thinking that some of the difficulties attending its first settlement would be obviated if an attempt were made to lay out a town, to allot land in connection with it, or in some way to attract persons to settle there permanently instead of merely going to search for gold. They might introduce at once by those means habits of civilisation, instead of only establishing a government with sufficient force to coerce the population into decency and order.

(To be continued.)

WEIGHT OF THE ATMOSPHERE.—Pascal shows that all the phenomena and effects hitherto ascribed to the horror of a vacuum arise from the weight of the mass of air; and after explaining the variable pressure of the atmosphere in different localities, and its different states, and the rise of water in pumps, he calculates that the whole mass of air round our globe weighs 2,623,000,000,000,000 French pounds.

## HOMES OF THE ENGLISH OVER THE SEA.

## No. 1.—BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

(Continued from page 163.)

PHYSICAL ASPECTS AND NATURAL HISTORY  
OF THE ISLAND.

INDEPENDENTLY of the adjacent territories, the favourable position occupied by Vancouver Island, with reference to the China and Japan trade and the islands of the Pacific, renders it peculiarly suited for being the emporium of an extended commerce; and, from the fact of its possessing numerous excellent harbours, there is no reason why it may not, at some future period, command the principal portion of the trade between the Archipelago of the Pacific and the continent of America. The climate is very agreeable, resembling that of England, but on the whole much milder. It generally rains and snows from October to March, and during the rest of the year a parching heat prevails. The winds along the coast in winter are from the south-east, varying from that to the south-west, with occasional heavy northerly gales, and in the summer from the north and north-west. The soil under cultivation proves to be adapted for the production of excellent wheat crops. Captain Wilkes, of the United States' navy, estimates "the produce, whether from farm or garden, as of the finest character. The wheat weighs 63 lbs. to the bushel, and 600 acres produce 7,000 bushels. Barley yields twenty bushels to the acre, though oats do not thrive well; but peas, beans, and potatoes yield abundantly. Strawberries and gooseberries (the former nearly ripe), and salad gone to seed, were seen at Nisqually on the 15th of May. Cattle find natural hay all the year round, and multiply with astonishing rapidity."

"Generally speaking," says Colonel Colquhoun Grant, "the climate is both agreeable and healthy; and not a single death, that I am aware of, has occurred among the adults from disease during the six years that I have been acquainted with the island."

The Hudson's Bay Company in 1849 established a port at Beaver Harbour, on

the north-east corner of the island. It had been induced to form this station from the fact that some Indians had for a long period been in the habit of procuring coal from the district. The mineral lay actually on the surface of the soil; but, on examination, it was found to be of too loose and open a texture, and too largely intermixed with slate, to be worth the cost of working. In the neighbourhood of this port, however, which is called Fort Rupert, large supplies of very fine timber are to be obtained. It is adapted for the masts and spars of vessels; indeed, a considerable quantity of it has already been cut for those purposes. At Point Holmes some ten or twelve miles of "rich open prairie land," situated near the coast, offer the most eligible section for an agricultural settlement that has yet been discovered upon the island. South of this point the next important locality is Nanaimo Harbour, where the Hudson's Bay Company has established one of its forts. Here, in May, 1850, the Indians directed the attention of Mr. M'Kay to a seam of coal; they also spoke of having seen some "black stuff" on the opposite land, called Commercial Inlet. This seam, now named the Douglas Seam, rapidly yielded some 200 tons of coal to the rude labour of the Indians. On the 17th of September, Mr. Gilmour and a party of miners sank a shaft to a depth of fifty feet, and discovered a seam some six to seven feet in thickness, from which as large a supply as 120 tons of coal per week has been obtained by ten regular miners. Mr. Grant states that this seam, cropping out at the above-mentioned point, is but an offshoot of the great Douglas Seam, which he says has been attacked on four sides—on two by regular miners, and on two by Indians. "And," he adds, "altogether there are few places to be met with where coal can be worked as easily, and exported as conveniently, as from Nanaimo, and it will be the Hudson's Bay Company's own

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About 2,000 tons of coal were, up to January, 1854, got out of the mines near Nanaimo, and, when exported to San Francisco, realised twenty-eight dollars per ton. The harbour is commodious, sheltered on every side, and is the scene of a flourishing little settlement of some 125 inhabitants, of whom thirty-seven are working men, the remainder women and children. Their food is mainly provided by the Indians, who bring in on some days as many as twenty-three deer. The Company has claimed 6,000 acres of land in the immediate vicinity of the harbour, which is all the soil available for cultivation in the district. There is, at a distance of seven miles to the north-west, another harbour, called Tutuia, where the Indians report the existence of coal strata.

An arm of the sea runs inland for ten miles at Sanetah, distant about forty miles from Nanaimo. It does not, however, afford good anchorage. The country surrounding it is richly wooded, with open tracts or prairies, equal altogether to about three square miles; but whatever emigrant may locate himself here must be content to remain shut out from communication with any other colonists resident in the interior, as at about a mile's distance from the sea a chain of mountains rises up in a manner to forbid all attempts at penetrating into the interior. Into this arm, at its northern side, the largest river yet known to exist on the island, the Cowitohin, discharges itself. Taking its rise from a large lake in the centre of the island, it widens at about twenty miles from its mouth, during the month of May, to an extent of some 160 feet. Its depth is between three and four feet, and it runs in a portion of its course through rich alluvial land. At Victoria resides Sir George Douglas, the chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, and Governor of the island. The settlement, situated upon a small harbour, is made up of some sixty houses, or log cabins, as they, in point of fact, principally are. The chief clerks, traders, &c., reside with the stores inside

a palisaded enclosure; while, on the surrounding country, comprising about seven square miles of open land and ten miles of woodland, are to be found the great body of the colonists at present resident on the island. Between Victoria and Esquimaux there are 200 acres of prairie land; advancing west we find, beyond Esquimaux Harbour, 350 acres more; and at Matchousin, six miles still further west, there is an additional tract of 620 acres of fine open land. Succeeding these oases, dreary rocks continue to characterise the coast till we reach Pedder Bay, a snug little harbour, indenting the island for nearly three miles. Surrounding this harbour there is a rich level tract, with good soil, consisting of black mould above a subsoil of yellow clay. This fertile district is plentifully sprinkled with oak trees, is well watered, and contains several springs.

"On Soke Bay," says Col. Colquhoun Grant, from whose exceedingly graphic description of Vancouver Island, communicated to the Royal Geographical Society, we found our remarks on the climate, soil, &c., of the colony,—"on Soke Bay the author of this paper originally established himself. He brought about thirty-five acres under cultivation; raised a small stock of cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry; and built houses for himself and men, with a barn, farm buildings, and a saw-mill. He found the soil produce abundantly, when cultivated, any crops that can be grown in Scotland or England. He found no difficulty in establishing a friendly intercourse with the native tribes of savages, who were only about sixty in number. For two years he resided there a solitary colonist; he then let his farm on lease to some of the men he had brought out with him, and went to visit a far country."

The harbour of Soke is perfectly sheltered, but is scarcely adapted to large vessels. Along the eastern shore there is scarcely any available land, but at the entrance of the bay a Scotch family have located themselves on a little green alluvial patch, where they prepare piles and spars to be shipped to San Francisco. Six varieties of fir and one of pine exist around the harbour. Here rocks again

commence to display themselves, and continue till we reach the mouth of a river, called by the natives Quasabuka, which discharges itself, at a point some fourteen miles west of Soke, into the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Traces of coal have also been observed in this district.

As we emerge from the Straits of Fuca we reach the open sea, having, as we rounded Point Bonilla, passed a salt-water loch, presenting a narrow shallow entrance from the sea, not capable of admitting any larger craft than the native canoes. This loch runs inland for some miles, expanding, at a short distance from the coast, to a width of two or three miles. On its shores are settled a tribe of savages called Nitteentush or Nitteenats, who are expert whalers.

Cape Canasco, the southern point of the entrance to Barclay Sound, is at a distance of fifteen miles to the northward of Cape Bonilla. Since Meares's visit to Barclay Sound, in the beginning of the present century, no white man had appeared there till the arrival of an American vessel in the summer of 1852. The natives brought alongside this vessel in one week no less than 120 barrels of salmon. It is a broad bay, open at the south-west. "Its breadth at the entrance," says Grant, "is about fifteen miles, and it runs inland with the same breadth to a distance of seventeen miles. A number of rocky islets stretch across the entrance; leaving, however, two broad open channels, both towards the south-east side. One of these channels is about one mile and a half broad, and is close to the eastern shore of the Sound; the other is about three miles and a quarter broad, and is a little farther to the north-west. It cannot be mistaken, being clearly visible from the outside, and also distinctly marked by a very singular rock, with only three fir trees on it, appearing precisely like the three masts of a vessel. The channel is immediately to the north of this rock, and the Sound is more open immediately after entering within it. There are, however, a few islands interspersed all over it, most of them inhabited by small fishing families of the savages. Generally speaking, the country all round Barclay Sound is broken and rocky,

thickly covered with useless wood, and unfit for cultivation or settlement. There is no truth in the reports which have been circulated of there being coal on Barclay Sound. The Indians, however, describe some coal as existing at Munahtah, in the country of Cojucklesatuch, some three days' journey into the interior, at the back of Barclay Sound. The coal is described as a seam four feet thick, cropping out from the top of a high hill. The inhabitants of Barclay Sound may be 700 in all; they are a poor, miserable race, are very much divided, both into tribes and small families. They are a harmless and live altogether by fishing, having few bows and arrows among them, and scarcely any muskets. Even the young men have a singularly old and worn appearance, and they are generally much smaller stature than their neighbours, the Nitteenats. Dwelling on the banks of a small river, about two days' journey from Barclay Sound, is the only known inland tribe yet found in Vancouver Island. They have been almost exterminated by the Nanaimo Indians, who have reduced this tribe to four families."

"The next harbour to the north of Barclay Sound," to quote Grant, "is Clayoquot, where there are 3000 Indians established, who are anxious to trade with the whites; but as yet none but Americans have been amongst them. A bar with from four to six fathoms on it runs across the harbour. There is good anchorage inside, and shelter from all winds. The arm runs a considerable distance into the interior; but there is no open land that I am aware of, and the surface of the woodland is rocky and broken.

"From the northward to Nootka there is no land along the seaboard that has the appearance of being available for any useful purpose. Nootka Sound is a large arm of the sea, containing several small sheltered harbours. There is no open land near it, and but little available woodland. The Indians are numerous, and sometimes hostile. They seized an American vessel in the summer of 1852, but did not molest the crew. At Nespeled, a little north of Nootka, coal is reported

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by the Indians. Nespod is called Port Brooks on the charts.

North of Nespod is Koaksemo, but there is no land at this point for colonisation or settlement. The coast is rocky, though not high, and a vessel would do well to keep clear of it in winter.

"It will be thus seen," adds Col. Grant, "that the most favourable places for settlement are to be met with only on the east and south coasts. The west coast, north of Barclay Sound, has all a most unfavourable aspect; and even within Barclay Sound we have only Indian reports at present to trust to for there being land of a nature fit for settlement."

The Indian population of the whole island is stated at 17,000. They are, in general, favourably disposed to the whites, and with proper superintendence are capable of being made very useful. They all live by fishing, but take kindly to any rough sort of agricultural employment, though their labour is not generally to be depended on for any continued period.

The lands at present surveyed by the Hudson's Bay Company are included in a line, which may be taken from Sanctah to Soke harbours. The quantity of land surveyed in detail is 200 square miles, of which one third is rock unavailing; the remainder is principally woodland. The proportion of open land will be seen from the above remarks, where all that is known is mentioned, and bears a very small proportion to the woodland; but where it exists at all it is almost invariably rich; and the woodland, where it is at all level, is richer than the prairie ground, from the increased quantity of vegetable deposit.

Vancouver Island possesses but a poor Flora, and no new varieties of plants have been found there. The camass, a small esculent root, about the size of an onion, is pretty generally scattered over the surface of the island. It is to be met with on the fertile patches of open ground or prairie, and also on the green slips of soil among the rocks. This root forms the principal native delicacy, in the way of food, for the savage inhabitants. They lay up large quantities of it for winter food, burying it in the ground in pits, in the same manner as they preserve their

store of potatoes. The root is said to possess strong astringent qualities. The savage mode of preparation is as follows:—Large holes are dug in the ground, into which are thrown hot stones; on these are placed the raw camass, and the whole covered up with sticks and mats—an arrangement which is left undisturbed until the root is sufficiently baked. Next to the camass, the plant most frequently to be met with in the island is the *Gaultheria Shallon*, called by the Canadians "salal," which is a small shrub, bearing a dark blue berry a little larger than the cranberry. The savages are very fond of this berry, and it is said to be sweet and wholesome. The *Arbutus uva-ursi* is the name of another plant abounding on the hills. Its leaves, after having been dried and mingled with tobacco, are used as a smoking mixture. Like the salal, it constitutes an article of diet much sought after by the bear, of which two species exist on the island. In some districts the *Equisetum hymemale*, or what the Canadians call *la prêle* (the horse-tail), is to be found. Natural grasses are scarce on the island, and this affords excellent food for cattle, which are said to be so fond of it that they will desert their pastures, and force a path through woods for miles in order to get at it. In the woods and low grounds several varieties of campanula and lupinus grow; and wherever, on the low grounds and hill sides, sufficient soil to support them exists, all the fruits generally cultivated in Great Britain are to be met with in abundance. The strawberry, the gooseberry, black currant, raspberry, a small black wild cherry, and a variety of the crab-apple, are included in the list; and on the south of the island, as well as upon the mainland opposite, the potato is universally cultivated by the red men. The potato appears to have been long known to them; but, as it is never grown by any of the tribes except those which have traded with the white man, it may be considered that the root is not indigentous, but the introduction of some of the early traders to these parts. There are eight or nine varieties of the potato to be found on the island, all differing in a greater or less degree, according to the character of the soil on which they grow. All, however,



are of a larger size than any found in Europe. Mr. Grant informs us that potatoes and dried salmon form the staple food of all the natives who can procure them, the camas being considered in the light of a delicacy and dinner relish. They consume little animal food, being too lazy to hunt for it except during winter, when they shoot large quantities of wild fowl. Bears, of which, as we have said, two species exist in Vancouver, are numerous upon the island. Those Indians who possess "shooting-irons" kill them for the sake of bartering their skins with the Hudson's Bay Company. No part of the bear is grateful to the white man's palate, unless we except the foot when carefully cooked. A very hungry white man will, however, digest bear meat as easily as any savage; but the prospect of other food must be very remote before the stomach of the former can be induced to grow thus accommodating. The elk, the tenourus, or large white-tailed deer, and a smaller species of black-tailed deer, are also to be found upon the island. The flesh of the elk affords good nourishing food, but that of the other kinds is tasteless and insipid, containing but little nourishment. The panther and the black and white wolf infest the thick woods. "Squirrels and minxes," says Col. Grant, "are found everywhere in great numbers, and both land and sea-otters are occasionally to be met with: the latter are only found on the north coast of the island. The animal is generally from four to eight feet long, reaching, however, sometimes to a length of twelve feet; and its fur is very soft and delicate, being by far the most valuable of that of any animal found on the north-west coast. It is generally of a jet-black colour, though sometimes it has a slightly brownish tint. Signs of the beaver have occasionally been seen by old trappers on Vancouver Island, but the animal has never actually been met with. Altogether there are very few animals producing valuable furs on the place, and I should conceive the value of furs actually trapped and traded on the island cannot exceed \$40 per annum."

Of birds, they have the *Tetrao obscurus*—the male a beautiful bird of bluish

colour, rather larger than the Scottish grouse. He has a loose outer-throat, like that of a turkey, of yellow colour, which he inflates when he utters his peculiar cry. This cry, something like that of an owl, is heard at a long distance. In uttering it, while perched on one of the lofty trees of the country, he frequently sounds his death-knell, as the creeping savage, lured by the well-known sound, is guided by it in his approach to his beautiful victim, whom, however, he never attempts to bag unless he sits quietly to receive him. The savage, although he has a very quick eye, never dreams of taking a flying shot at either bird, beast, or man.

There is also another species of grouse, the *Tetrao Richardsonii*; and the drum partridge completes the varieties of feathered game. The *obscurus* is found in the highest grounds, like the ptarmigan of Scotland; the other two varieties frequent the low woods. None of them are found in numbers, and it takes a very good shot, and a still better walker, to make up a game-bag of three brace a-day.

Of small birds, there is the Mexican woodpecker, and a large mis-shapen species of bullfinch. Note it has none, and, indeed, *aves vocales* may, generally speaking, be said never to be met with on the west coast of America. The settler in these parts misses equally the lively carol of the lark, the sweet, cheerful note of the thrush, and the melancholy melody of the nightingale.

There is a vast variety of aquatic birds, including the scaup duck, the *Anser Canadensis*, the golden eye, the common mallard, the teal, the crested gull, and numerous others. They completely cover the lakes and inland salt-water lochs in winter, but altogether desert the country in summer. A large species of crane frequents the marshes and open ground, and furnishes material for capital soup if you can bag him; they are, however, very shy. A sportsman will also occasionally kick up a solitary snipe. These latter are, however, extremely rare and migratory; they are never met with except during a few days in the beginning of February.

There are several varieties of fir in the

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woods, the most common of which are the *Douglasii* and the *grandis*. The former furnishes material for most excellent spars; the latter is a soft wood, very white, and open in the grain. It is difficult to season it, and, from the irregularity of its growth, is cross-grained, and does not make good timber. The *Canadensis*, the *mitis*, and the *alba*, which flourish well wherever there is any depth of soil, all make excellent timber, but are none of them adapted for finishing work. There is also the large red cedar of America, which grows into a noble tree; the *Abies nobilis*, and the *Cupressus thyoides*. The largest and most picturesque tree of the fir tribe in Vancouver Island is the *nobilis*; it is not, however, often met with, growing only in rich alluvial bottoms, and in no place that I have seen conveniently situated for export. This tree sometimes reaches a height of 250 feet, with a circumference of forty-two feet at the butt; the bark is from eight to fourteen inches thick. The white maple grows in all the low woodlands, and is abundant, but never reaches any great size. Wherever there is an open prairie land, two kinds of oak—the *Quercus suber clavigata*, and another similar species, somewhat darker in the bark and harder in the quality of the wood—are found. The quality of the wood of both these kinds of oak is hard and tough, and they are excellently adapted to form the knees and timbers for vessels. The trees, however, are small and scrubby, and hide their abashed heads below the towering conifers by which they are surrounded.

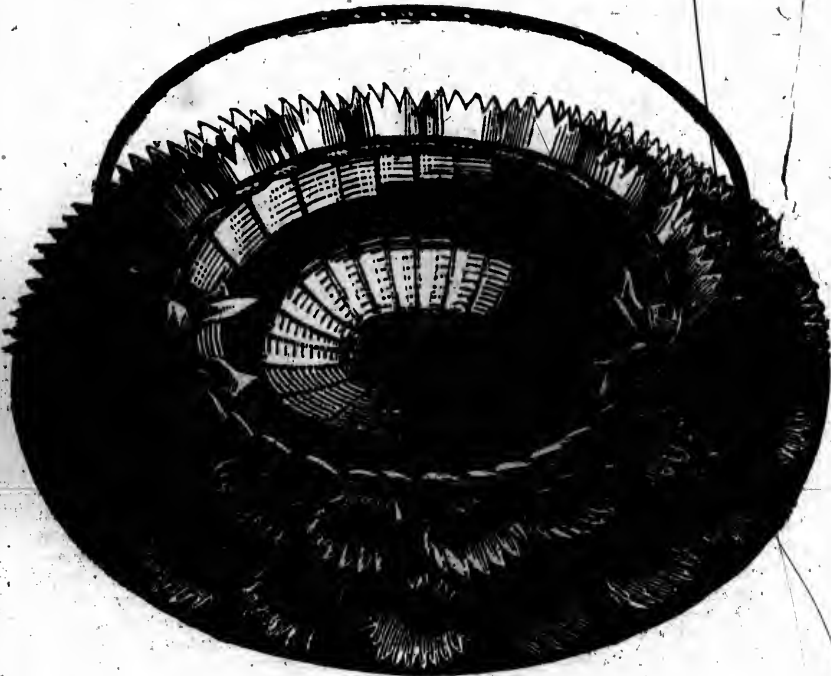
A large species of *Arbutus* grows on the seacoast, and on the banks of rivers, sometimes reaching a height of from thirty to forty feet. The bark is smooth, and of a bright-red colour; the wood is hard and white, and takes an excellent polish. Only one kind of pine has as yet been found on the island, the *Monticola*.

The above-mentioned kinds all grow to a great height—from 150 to 200 feet and upwards—wherever the land is at all level, and where there is any depth of soil. To the spectator from the seaboard the island appears one mass of wood. Among the natural productions of Vancouver Island the native hemp must not

be omitted. Specimens have been sent to England, and, on its quality being tested, it was found to be superior to Russian hemp. There is no great quantity of it growing on the island, it being, more properly speaking, a natural production of the banks of Frazer River on the opposite mainland. There is no doubt, however, that it might be very extensively cultivated in Vancouver Island, and in its cultivation is probably the way, next to salmon-fishing, the labour of the entire population might be most profitably employed.

In the months of August and September a general jubilee occurs, and every man and woman goes forth to catch the salmon that abound at that time, with net, spear, and hook. The herring season succeeds, and, during the months of October and November, their time is occupied in raking the fish into their canoes by means of long sticks armed all over with crooked nails. The herring is stated to be precisely similar to that caught on the west coast of Scotland. Of salmon there are seven distinct kinds; they are fine, large fish, sometimes weighing from fifty to sixty pounds. A few whales visit this coast at certain seasons. The native mode of securing them is to attack them in large numbers—in fact, surround them with canoes—and, by incessantly plunging darts attached to air-bladders into their bodies, to tire them out, and so slaughter them. Afterwards they are towed ashore, when the oil is “tried out” into wooden tubs by the aid of hot stones.

From Colonel Grant's exceedingly valuable description of Vancouver Island we extract the following statement of the trade carried on there during the year 1853. All the *bond fide* trade has been between the island and San Francisco; but the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels have exported cargoes of salmon from Frazer River to the Sandwich Islands. Salmon, herrings, and cod are to be found abundantly all around the coast; sturgeon and halibut also exist in great quantities. The fisheries, coal, and timber undoubtedly make the island worthy of attention, without at all taking into account the facilities for farming many parts of the island offer.



THE BASKET PENWIPER.

The exports were as follows :—Coals, 1492 tons ; cranberries, 150 barrels ; piles, 128,800 running feet ; squared timber, 16,500 cubic feet ; spars, 22,000 running feet ; sawn timber, 10,000 superficial feet ; oysters, 1000 barrels ; salmon, 3540 barrels ; oil (whale and fish), 200 barrels ; oolachnas, 150 barrels.

(To be continued.)

### THE WORK-TABLE.

**THE BASKET PENWIPER.**—These pretty Penwipers are very easily made, and are quite an ornament upon a lady's writing-table. They are also very useful, and well calculated for acceptable Christmas presents. The materials are, in the first place, a few pieces of coloured cloth, which

look all the better for being bright and forming a good contrast. Of these, two rounds are to be cut the size of that which appears in our illustration, both of which are to be bound with narrow ribbon. We have given a diagram of the bell-shaped forms, which are next to be cut in two different cloths, and after having been pinked at their outer edge, are to be tacked up with a needle and silk of their own colour, and then stitched down with as much regularity as possible on one of the rounds of cloth already prepared for that purpose. About half a dozen thicknesses of black book-muslin are then to be cut round, slightly smaller than the two in cloth, and being placed between them, are to be fastened together by a few firm stitches in the centre. The basket rising out of the midst of the two tiers of the bells, is simply one of those pretty delicate wicker-work baskets which may be pur-

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The Family Friend

HOMES OF THE ENGLISH OVER THE SEA.

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by the ascent of the flame, is compelled to pass through the small perforations below the gallery, partly through the cone, and against the outer part of the flame, and partly through the central tube against its interior; the supply of air obtained in this manner is amply sufficient to ensure perfect and brilliant combustion, without the employment of a chimney. Messrs. Martindale have also adapted the same general principle to the construction of flat wick lamps.

The mode in which the globes are secured in the gallery is very simple and effective. In Fig. 1 there may be observed, immediately over the button used in raising or depressing the wick,

the globe projecting over the gallery. These are capable of being turned round to the opposite side, where there are two fixed catches. When all are together the flanged globe can be readily placed in the gallery, but on returning the movable catches to the side opposite those that are fixed, the flange of the glass globe is securely held down on both sides, and its accidental removal prevented.

Believing, as we do, that hydrocarbon oils will be eventually the most important of all sources of artificial light, we hail with pleasure any improvement in the construction of lamps fitted for their combustion.

## HOMES OF THE ENGLISH OVER THE SEA.

### No. 1.—BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

(Continued from page 224.)

#### THE MAINLAND, OR BRITISH COLUMBIA.

APPROACHING the mainland, say from the Gulf of Georgia, which runs between it and the Island of Vancouver, British Columbia presents a sea-wall of jagged, rugged cliffs, against which a foaming sea dashes ineffectually. A monotonous series of rocks start up before the voyager's view, all densely covered with fir trees. The narrow seas between the island and British Columbia are beset with dangers to navigation, in the form of swift currents, sunken rocks, &c.; while away up the gulf to Johnstone Straits, and beyond these to Broughton Archipelago, no sailing vessel unprovided with a pilot could safely steer its way. A single glance at the map will enable any person to perceive that the power holding fortifications on Vancouver Island, and on the Broughton Archipelago, would be in possession of a Gibraltar and a Cronstadt together, and grasp the Pacific in its clutch by the throat.

It is with the interior of British Columbia, however, that we have at present to deal, with those auriferous tracts which promise to afford England as great an in-

ducement to establish itself on the Pacific as California has given to the United States of America. To-day we know scarcely anything more of this territory than that it lies on the shores of the Pacific; that on the land it is bounded by the Rocky Mountains and the line of American territory; and that in two of its rivers gold rushes with the current.

Sir E. B. Lytton, in his speech to the House of Commons, gave a summary of all that was positively known both of the country and of the gold fields that exist in it. "I will give the house," he said, "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 south by the American frontier line, 49 deg. latitude, and may be considered to extend to the source of Fraser River, in latitude 55 deg. 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's 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 southwestern 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. Hon. 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 thirty-five 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's River and 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 colonisation.'

"Therefore, apart from the gold fields, this country affords every promise of a flourishing and important colony. In Charlotte's Island, which we include in this new colony, gold was discovered in

1850, but only in small quantities. Here I may, perhaps, correct a popular misconception. In Vancouver Island itself no gold has been yet discovered. The discovery of gold on the mainland was first reported to the Colonial Office by a despatch from the Governor of Vancouver Island, dated April 16th, 1856. The governor had received a report from a clerk in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Colville, on the Upper Columbia River. Further reports followed in October, 1856, testifying to the importance of the discovery. From experiments made in the tributaries of Frazer River there was reason to believe that the gold region was extensive: the similarity in the geological formation of the mountains in the territory to those of California induced the governor to believe that these would prove equally auriferous. Subsequent accounts, in 1857, varied as to the quantity of gold obtained, but confirmed generally the opinion of the richness of the mines, especially above the confluence of the Frazer and Thompson rivers. The governor writes on the 16th of July, 1857, that gold was being discovered on the right bank of the Columbia, and the table land between that river and Frazer's. On December 29th he ascribed the small quantity found to the want of skill and tools on the part of the natives, who opposed any white men digging. The Indians were especially hostile to the Americans, and opposed their entrance into the country. Great excitement now prevailed in Oregon and Washington territory. An influx of adventurers might be expected in the spring, in which case collisions between the whites and the natives might be expected to occur. As far back as the first discovery in April, 1856, the governor had suggested the system of granting digging licenses, on payment of fees of 10s., which, on the 1st of January, 1858, he raised to 20s.; and prohibiting persons from digging without authority from the colonial Government. But this proclamation has virtually proved a dead letter; for, in point of fact, the Government had no legal power to issue the proclamation, or cause it to be respected, he having no

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quantities. a popular Island it-tered. The nland was Office by a Vancouver 856. The ort from a dson's Bay the Upper reports fol-ying to the From ex-utaries of n to believe ensive: the ormation of y to those of rnor to be-ove equally counts, in tivity of gold enerally the the mines, ience of the ivers. The of July, 1857, vered on the bria, and the t river and th he ascribed to the want of f the natives, men digging. hostile to the heir entrance t excitement at Washington enturers might in which case whites and the ted to occur. t discovery in had suggested igger licenses, which, on the raised to 20s; from digging a the colonial roclamation has letter; for, in- nment had no roclamation, or he having no

commission as governor on the main-land; and; indeed, his sole power has been the moral power of his energy, talents, and extraordinary influence over the natives. The manner in which he has preserved peace is highly to his honour. In a letter from the governor to the Hudson's Bay Company, March 22nd, 1858, he trusts that her Majesty's Government would take measures to prevent crimes and protect life and property, or there would be ere long a large array of difficulties to settle. 'A large number of Americans had entered the territory; others were preparing to follow.' On the 8th of May he states to the Colonial Office that 450 passengers, chiefly gold-miners, had come from San Francisco; that they all appeared well provided with mining tools; there seemed to be no want of capital or intelligence among them; that about sixty were British subjects, and about an equal number Americans; the rest were chiefly Germans, with some Frenchmen and Italians. And I have here the pleasure to observe that he states that, though there was a temporary scarcity of food and a dearth of house accommodation, they were remarkably quiet and orderly. The governor then touches on the advantage to the trade of the island from the arrival of so large a body of people; but he adds significantly:—

"The interests of the empire may not be improved to the same extent by the accession of a foreign population whose sympathies are decidedly anti-British. From this point of view the question assumes an alarming aspect, and leads us to doubt the policy of permitting foreigners to enter the British territory *ad libitum* without taking the oath of allegiance, or otherwise giving security to the Government of the country."

"He states that 'the principal diggings at Frazer and Thompson rivers at present will continue flooded for many months, and there is a great scarcity of food in the gold districts; that the ill-provided adventurers who have gone there will exhaust their stock of provisions, and will probably retire from the country till a more favourable season; that on the dangerous rapids of the river

a great number of canoes have been dashed to pieces, the cargoes swept away; many of the adventurers swept into eternity—others, nothing daunted, pressing on to the goal of their wishes.'"

How far these statements and anticipations have been borne out by the facts, will be best judged by the report of the "Times" correspondent, who sends an epitome of the mining operations of the season 1861-2, of which we furnish an abridgment:—

"A certain number of miners remained in Cariboo during the winter. The season was not so severe in that district as in portions of the country further south and nearer to the coast, a fact of great value to the miners who wintered on the spot, as it enabled them to work more or less during the winter, to prepare works for the ensuing season, and to avail themselves of the first favourable opening of spring to recommence their season's labours long before the miners from the lower country could arrive.

"From the middle of April to the middle of May the state of matters is reported to have been as follows:—On Williams Creek, Steele's company and Cunningham's company were at work, and realising the great yield of last year; the former earning large sums, and the latter produced on one day from a hole 3 ft. by 4 ft. \$2,300 in the brief space of one hour and a half. These were the only 'claims' worked for some time on this creek; and some 800 men were encamped and lying idle, awaiting the melting of the snow, which was 18 inches deep. As the snow melted, the miners met with impediments from the excess of water in their diggings. On Keithley's Creek and at the Forks of Queenelle several companies of miners had worked all winter in preparing and setting flumes and sluices, which, after they were all ready for work, were swept away by a flood, a vicissitude peculiar to this region.

"At Antler, Grouse, Lowhee, and Lightning Creeks, no work commenced up to the first week of May, and miners newly arrived were prevented from 'prospecting' by reason of a scarcity of provisions. To 'prospect' involves long



journeys and wanderings in search of new diggings, and the necessity of a supply of food carried along with the prospecting party. From other localities, parties had made prospecting tours, but no new diggings had been found.

"In the middle of May, the weather became very cold, and sharp frosts set in at night. The 'trails,' and the country generally in Cariboo, were very slushy and hard to travel, by reason of the depth of mud. Necessaries were very high, owing to the temporary scarcity before the 'pack trains' arrived from the lower country. At Williams Creek, flour was \$1 80c., beans \$1 50c., and bacon \$1 75c. per lb. Mining picks were sold for \$9, and axes and shovels fetched \$10 each. Boots were not to be obtained at any price. \$75 (£15 sterling) were offered and refused for a pair of india-rubbers. These waterproof boots are a necessity of mining life in the early part of the season, while the ground is wet and cold, and they are very generally worn throughout the mining season. Labourers were paid \$10 a day, but had to work in deep snow-water. The charges for packing, which was chiefly performed by Indians, were at this period also enormously high. The population of Cariboo was at the time estimated at 1,500 to 2,000, and crowds of miners on the way up in advance of provisions, so that fears of a famine were entertained."

The following remarks, published in the "British Colonist," Victoria, of the 15th of June, are worth republication; for the editor takes every pains, and spares no expense, to obtain correct information on the subject of the mines. "The news from Cariboo," the leading article says, "is highly satisfactory. 4,000 persons have entered British Columbia this year on their way to the northern mines, and, with the exception of one solitary croaker, the concurrent testimony of all is that Cariboo is the richest country on the globe. At the last accounts (June 3) the miners had not been able to open and work their claims. The delay is owing to the melting snow raising the water in the creeks. Considerable prospecting had been done; but up to the last of May, the slush-rain and

snow—greatly obstructed all operations; in fact, no such thing as thorough prospecting could be done till the snow disappeared, and the water fell in the creeks. July will be well advanced before the miners can fairly get to work; and not till August can we anticipate any very large receipts of gold from Cariboo. Then it will flow in, increasing in volume till winter steps in and stops the washing of pay-dirt. At last accounts only one company was at work on Antler, and two on Williams Creek. From Steele's 300 ounces, worth \$5,000, were taken out in a day. Cunningham's claim turned out at the rate of 16 lb. avoirdupois in gold. A half share in it sold for \$15,000!—an immense price for 50 feet along Williams Creek. The reason why these claims are being worked in advance of all others, is entirely due to the fact that some of the owners wintered there last winter. Such an advantage will not be lost sight of in the future, and next winter a large population will be likely to winter there. Tunnel diggings are likely to become the chief means in keeping up a large winter population. One gratifying feature in the late intelligence from the mines is communicated by Mr. Elwyn, gold commissioner. He says that bank diggings are likely to be the most profitable this year. The existence of such diggings renders the future of Cariboo brighter than ever. Hitherto the beds of creeks alone have been worked; but bank diggings are deep diggings—are lasting, and when the miners shall be enabled to use hydraulic power for washing, the gold taken out will be enormous, for we are assured that so far as the banks have been prospected, they have proved richer than the beds of the creeks. The number of miners in Cariboo up to the last of May were estimated at about 2,000, and there were at least 2,000 more on their way up. Our special correspondent writes that the scarcity of provisions was likely to cause a considerable number to return. We doubt, however, whether any very large number will come down, as the packers are pushing provisions into the upper country as rapidly as possible, and we think the present population in the mines

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and those on their way there are likely  
 to get what provisions they require if  
 they have enough money to purchase  
 them. We would therefore strongly re-  
 commend those who intend to go to  
 Cariboo to take plenty of money; and if  
 possible, carry with them enough flour,  
 bacon, and beans for two months' con-  
 sumption. For, except the rush there be  
 greater this season than can now be fairly  
 anticipated, the packers will push through  
 such plentiful supplies by the middle or  
 last of August as will meet the entire  
 demand, and leave something to spare.  
 There are nearly 350 miles of waggon-  
 road now in course of construction on the  
 two river routes to Cariboo, and at last  
 advices labourers could not be had,  
 though the two lines would furnish em-  
 ployment to 1,000 to 2,000 men, at \$40  
 and board per month, with tools found.  
 Whoever, then, is unable to live in Cari-  
 boo owing to short funds, can get work,  
 and whoever may go up from here will  
 find employment. One of the road com-  
 panies have had to hire Chinamen, as  
 white men would not work unless paid  
 \$60 per month. This indicates that the  
 upward-bound miners are tolerably flush  
 in funds, and will be able to get along  
 without asking credit, which, in miner's  
 parlance, is 'played out.' With the  
 exception of a temporary scarcity of pro-  
 vision, and the want of funds to last the  
 miners till they open their claims, we can  
 assure our readers both at home and  
 abroad, that the accounts from Cariboo  
 are as favourable as the most ardent gold-  
 seeker could wish. Were 500 croakers—  
 a class of men who infest all mining lo-  
 calities everywhere—to return to-day, it  
 would not alter our convictions one iota  
 as to the extent, durability, and richness  
 of the Cariboo mines."

(To be continued.)

## AN INCIDENT IN THE LIFE OF AN UNFLEDGED GENIUS.

URSULA would write a book, but, though  
 she felt capable, her untried efforts caused  
 her to need the advice and sympathy of  
 some one who knew more of the world and  
 its likings: and to whom should she go but  
 to Jane, her good, wise sister? So to Jane  
 she went.

"Jane, I want to write a book."

"A book!" reiterated the astonished  
 elder—"a book!—what can have put that  
 ridiculous thought into your head? Don't  
 you know how many books are continually  
 being sent to the market? it is already  
 full.

"The very reason which encourages me,  
 as it proves the demand to be great."

"Silly child! That is just like saying  
 that because the market is full of bread,  
 people must necessarily be hungry."

"Well, sister; and do we not constantly  
 require fresh supplies of food, both for body  
 and mind?"

"But, remember how many poor authors  
 are continually learning that their attempts  
 are miserable failures."

"That's the author's fault," interposed  
 the young literary aspirant.

"And it's a dear risk," continued Jane.

"But it would not be a failure," per-  
 sisted Ursula, "if the writer produced any-  
 thing startling and new."

"I agree with you there," replied the  
 wise sister; "but is there anything new  
 under the sun?"

"No, there never has been since the  
 flood; yet people have continually written,  
 and had their books read. What I want to  
 know is, wherein the charm of a story  
 consists."

"As to that, there are, undoubtedly,  
 diverse reasons which make books popular;  
 and before you attempt anything of the  
 kind, I would advise you to try to find out  
 the secret of the people's taste."

"You say there are various reasons;  
 will you name some?"

"Well, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' for in-  
 stance, had such a run, partly because it  
 treated on the popular subject of slavery.  
 Many books owe their popularity to the  
 light reflected from a predecessor; while  
 others gain attention by the peculiar style  
 of their arrangement—'Life for a Life,'  
 for example; and others still, to a cer-  
 tain pleasant mystery which enthralls the  
 imagination and stimulates thought."

"But there are many more common-

THE NETTLE SEEN THROUGH A MICROSCOPE.—  
 When thus viewed, the leaf of the Nettle appears  
 the model of an extensive estate, decorated with  
 timber and shrubbery, and subdivided by the  
 rays or ribs which proceed from the main stalk or  
 spine into several compartments.—Timber Things  
 not generally known.

## HOMES OF THE ENGLISH OVER THE SEA.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

#### HOW TO GET THERE.

According to "Arrowsmith's Atlas" there would appear to be two available routes by which emigrants from Europe may reach New Caledonia; one by way of Canada, and thence overland, crossing the Rocky Mountains; the other either round Cape Horn or *via* the Isthmus of Panama. At present the latter route is the most expeditious and convenient, being only thirty-five days' sail from Liverpool; it also involves less risk, although the outlay of capital may be somewhat heavier. The tide of human traffic which will inevitably set in towards the vast prairies of Central America will doubtless tend to remove many existing difficulties; but much time and money must be expended and lives sacrificed before any appreciable modification can be expected, at least of such a character as to render the overland journey safe or desirable. To lovers of the picturesque, and such travellers as may be influenced by a passion for adventure, this route will necessarily possess irresistible charms. To the imagination of youth and energy, we can readily understand that severe privations amidst savage and hostile tribes of Indians are as nothing when compared with the absorbing excitement of perilous incidents by "flood and field," or the pleasure of gazing on the trackless wastes, stupendous mountains, and majestic lakes and rivers of the New World. We have no desire to exaggerate the danger of traversing this vast district; but should any of our readers be contemplating this route, we would simply remind them of the thousands who perished in these desolate wildernesses during the gold fever of 1849, the very path they pursued being now indicated by human bones and human graves. Emigrants crossing the plains usually combine into large parties for security, their luggage and tents being conveyed in waggons drawn by mules.

Each man should be provided with a pair of blankets, a buffalo robe, several pairs of waterproof boots reaching above the knees, besides one change of outward raiment and two of linen. Arms are indispensable as a safeguard against the treachery of the Indians, as well as for the purposes of the chase. These should consist of a good rifle and bowie knife, and a Colt's revolver, together with an ample supply of powder and lead. The "Times" gives a *résumé* of the facts relating to the progress of the colonies, so far as they are ascertained, and indicates the several routes available for emigrants.

It would be interesting to give a complete history of the progress of the Gold Regions; but, falling that, we give the following brief summary, which is put forth with all the authority of "The Times," and which, we think, will be found sufficient:—

"At the present time (August 12th, 1862) when so many persons of all classes are leaving these shores for British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, perhaps a hint or two may not be unwelcome. British Columbia, previously known as New Caledonia, contains about 200,000 square miles; the average breadth of the territory is about 250 miles; the length of its coast line about 450 miles. The population of the country is chiefly migratory, consisting of mining adventurers from California and other parts of the world, and including considerable numbers of Chinese; the settled white population may be estimated at under 1,000. In addition to its gold mines, which are yet the principal source of wealth in the colony, the natural resources of the country have thus been summed up in evidence before the House of Commons:—Its minerals are most valuable; its timber the best in the world for marine purposes; its soil, with bituminous coal well fitted for the generation of steam; from Thompson's and Colville districts to the Rocky Mountains, and from the 49th parallel to 50 miles north, a more beautiful coun-

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not exist. It is in every way suitable for civilization. There are three routes by which Vancouver's Island and British Columbia may be reached. First, round Cape Horn direct to Victoria, the capital of Vancouver's island, a flourishing town of 3000 inhabitants; 2dly, by the West India mail steamer to Aspinwall, thence across the Isthmus (48 miles) by railway, to Panama, and thence by the Pacific line of steamers to Victoria; 3dly, via New York to Aspinwall by steamers, and thence to Vancouver's Island across the Isthmus, as in the second route. This is the most certain route for letters. From Vancouver's Island to the mainland of British Columbia the distance is about 60 miles across the Gulf of Georgia. The time occupied on the first route is about five months in a sailing vessel, and about three in a steamer; the cost in the first cabin from 50*l.* to 60*l.*, and in the second, or intermediate cabin, from 30*l.* to 40*l.*, and in the steerage from 25*l.* to 30*l.* By the second route Vancouver's Island may be reached in about 50 days, if the passengers are not detained at Panama and San Francisco. There is sometimes a week's detention at the latter place. The cost of a first-class passage is about 100*l.*, that of the second class about 65*l.*, and that in the steerage about 45*l.* The cost of passages by the third route is about the same as by the second route."

### THE STORY OF LITTLE BLUE-BELL.

ONCE on a time, a little Blue-bell dwelt on the hill-side, and, lifting her graceful head above the lowly herbs around towards the azure heaven, seemed to reflect the purity of its hue. She dwelt in solitude, secluded from mortal eyes, exhaling her sweet perfume—at morn, for the gentle zephyr; at mid-day for the bee and the butterfly; at night for God alone—and employing, as she rested, the rich soil for her sustenance and the clear spring for her refreshment, and the genial sun-rays for her splendour and delight. The little Blue-bell

one day a dark shadow suddenly  
and the sun's light, and, looking  
she saw a human being ad-  
wards her.  
do not deprive me of the sun-

shine!" murmured the gentle flower; but, alas! her entreaties were vain, for the language of plants is unintelligible to mankind.

The stranger, bending over her, admired her delicate colour, the symmetry of her form, her flexible stem, and timidly-bent head; but the little Blue-bell trembled, as if with a foreboding of evil: she seemed to feel by intuition that misfortune was at hand.

And now the unfeeling mortal drew nearer, and, cruelly tearing open her petals, inflicted fearful tortures on her fragile frame, murmuring the while strange and incomprehensible words; for he was a wise man, learned in all the mysteries of nature; yet, with all his science, he forgot that men have no right idly to ignore or destroy the creatures of God.

The poor little Blue-bell's trials had not ended yet—she was to lose her liberty, and to relinquish for ever her mountain home, with its fresh breezes and clear spring.

"Come, gentle flower," exclaimed the stranger, in exulting tones; "assume thy rightful place as the queen of our garden blossoms. With judicious culture, thy colour shall become more brilliant. Thou shalt be clothed, at pleasure, in the white robe of the Virgin, or the saffron-coloured tunic of Hymen, or the crimson chlamyde of the Norman dame. Now thou shalt wear the fresh hue of the maiden's cheek; again thy garment shall rival the azure of heaven; or, if it please thee more, thou shalt don the purple robes of royalty itself. Richer soil shall supply thee with strengthening sap, and clearer springs lave thy spreading fibres; while heat and sunshine shall be meted to thee with salutary moderation. Thou shalt reign as a sovereign over gorgeous flowers, all envious of thy superior charms: and mine alone will be the glory of having discovered, and rescued from obscurity, a creature so superb."

The little Blue-bell prayed and wept in vain—the sage did not heed or understand her. She felt herself torn from the earth with irresistible force, and, when the loosened fibres of her roots first saw the light, her agony became so intense

